

ANNEX I

**Human Rights Violations
in South Hebron Hills / April 2017**

REPORT

**Human Rights Violations and Popular Struggle
in South Hebron Hills- April 2017**



Operation Dove Nonviolent Peace Corps
of Associazione "Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII"

www.operationdove.org

ISRAELI ARMY AND POLICE SCHOOL PATROL

During the month of April Operation Dove volunteers recorded several misconducts of the Israeli soldiers that put in danger the Palestinian schoolchildren. In the morning escort the children arrived late at school and lost the first class, for two times, on April 10 and 17, because the soldiers were late. On April 5 OD volunteers were at the chicken barns near Ma'on Israeli settlement in order to monitor the military escort for Palestinian children of Tuba. At about 7:50am, after the children left with the Israeli Army three settlers chase the OD volunteers forcing them to move quickly in a safe place. Other 2 OD volunteers, who were waiting the children and the escort on Tuwani side, reported what happened to the Israeli soldiers, asked them to come back to check the situation. The soldiers said they would go, but they never reached the spot of the harassment. In the afternoon the delay of the Israeli forces forced the Palestinian schoolchildren to wait several hours after the end of the lessons. For two times, on April 3 and 6 the schoolchildren had to wait more than one hour the Israeli military escort. On April 18, 20, 23 the children waited about 40 minutes on their way back to Tuba village. On April 10 the Israeli soldiers didn't show up at all and OD volunteers and Israeli activists walked with the Palestinian children on the dangerous path. During the walk some young children had panic attacks because they were scared of settlers' aggression. On April 26 the Israeli soldiers didn't complete the escort to the end of the path, leaving the children alone before the chicken barns. 3 settlers from Havat Ma'on illegal outpost screamed and chased the Palestinian children, forced them to run away. On April 30 the Israeli soldiers were far from the Palestinian children for all the path.

MILITARY HARASSMENT AND AGGRESSIONS

On April 1, in the morning, some Palestinian shepherds from Tuba Palestinian village were grazing their flocks in their land in Umm Zeituna valley, close to the Israeli settlement of Ma'on, when an Israeli soldier appeared doing her patrol, forcing the shepherds to run away from that valley. On April 2, in the late afternoon, Israeli forces raided At-Tuwani Palestinian village. The first military jeep (#252167) arrived in the village at about 6 PM. Four Israeli masked soldiers began to search inside the backyards, greenhouses and animal shelters of the Palestinian houses. After 10 minutes the soldiers stopped near a Palestinian shelter for sheep where arrived another group of soldiers (#534157). Palestinians asked to the soldiers the reason of the raid but they didn't give them any explanations, ordering to Palestinians and Internationals to stay away from the military operations. At 6:20 PM group of soldiers took another tour inside the village. At 6:30 PM one Israeli armed settler, coming from Ma'on settlement, reached the spot. The settler gave orders to the soldiers and threatened to death a Palestinian human rights activist under the eyes of the Israeli soldiers who did not do anything to stop him. Another group of soldiers was she arching on the another side of the village. After some minutes the settler leave the spot and the soldiers started to move down, gathering around their jeeps. At about 6.40 PM the same settler arrived with a civil car car (#2577134) carrying one Israeli masked soldier. He entered in At-Tuwani village and he parked the car near the medical clinic. Settler and soldiers entered inside the backyard of the clinic and then they moved up inside a Palestinian garden. The Palestinians ask the soldiers to prevent the settler from entering inside their properties. The Israeli soldiers caught one Palestinian young man and tried to handcuff him, but the other people freed him with a nonviolent interposition action. Soldiers searched some Palestinian beehives, gathering in a Palestinian field inside the village, pushing away Palestinians and Internationals. At about 7 PM the Israeli settler left the village. Israeli forces left the village at 7:40 PM. On April 20 at about 11.15 AM a Palestinian shepherd was grazing his sheep in Kallet Adara, in front of the entrance of Ma'on settlement, when an Israeli Army jeep (#790537) arrived on the spot and he called Operation Dove volunteers. Three Israeli soldiers came down from the jeep and went close to the Palestinian shepherd. The Israeli soldiers claimed that he is not allowed to graze in this land. The Palestinian shepherd was forced to move away. During all the time also the Security coordinator of Ma'on settlement watched the event from Ma'on settlement. At

about 11.40 AM the Israeli Army left the area.

DEMOLITION AND STOP WORKING ORDERS

On April 3 at about 10:30 AM, as a Palestinian witness reported, some Israeli Civil Administration (DCO) jeeps entered in Umm Al Kheir Palestinian village. They delivered two demolition orders, one for a kitchen and one for a house founded by European Union. They also delivered a stop working order for the Community Center. The DCO also informed the inhabitants of the village that the demolition orders will be effective in 7 days.

CLOSURES CHECK-POINT

On April 14 at about 1:30pm the Operation Dove volunteers went on the entrance of At Tuwani Palestinian village, where there was an Israeli Army jeep (#790550). The Israeli soldiers on the spot were making a checkpoint and stopped at about 8 Palestinian cars. The soldiers checked the ID of almost all the Palestinian people in the cars searching also the trunks. At 1:50pm the Israeli soldiers stopped one Palestinian cars for a total of about two hours. They checked the ID of the Palestinian driver and also of the other Palestinian in the car. The soldiers searched all the car asking about all the contents inside. They sized one pair of boot claiming it was stolen. After they checked also the car's license. During this time the Palestinian were forced to wait out of the car and they were not allowed to move. The Israeli soldiers refused to give any explanation to the Operation Dove volunteers about what was going on. At about 3:45pm also an Israeli police car (#42125) arrived on the spot. The Policeman checked the car and the driver's ID and after few minutes let the driver went home. At about 4:00 pm the Israeli Police and Army left the area.

ISRAELI SETTLERS

SETTLERS HARASSMENT AND AGGRESSIONS

On April 1, a Palestinian shepherd from Bir Al Idd village was grazing his flock close to his house, accompanied by two OD volunteers and two Israeli activists. At about 10:30 am three settlers coming from Nof Nesher illegal Israeli outpost arrived on the spot. The Israeli settlers start to speak in english, wondering why the Palestinian shepherd is there, what is they doing, and other rhetorical and provocative questions. Neither the shepherd nor the volunteers and the activists talk to them and reply to their provocation. The settlers also filmed all the scene and the faces of the people present on the spot. At about 11:10 am the settlers left the area. On April 1, at about 11 AM, a Palestinian shepherd was grazing his flock in Khelly hill, located between At Tuwani Palestinian village and Ma'on Israeli settlement, when two Israeli settlers reached the spot. One settler, armed with automatic rifle, started to focus on the shepherd with a binoculars. Fearing the arrival of the Israeli forces the Palestinian shepherd decided to move away the flock quickly. On April 1, in the early afternoon, some young settlers coming from Havat Ma'on Israeli illegal outpost attacked a Palestinian boy with Down syndrome while he was reaching his family in the Palestinian land that is located near the outpost. According to the witnesses, the settlers threw rocks with slingshot, hitting him in the hand and the head. The Palestinian boy sustained moderate injuries.

On April 4, OD volunteers with the Palestinian owner of the land, documented the damage of several Palestinian 4 years old olive trees in the Palestinian land close to Avigayil Israeli outpost, south-west side. Israeli soldiers, present in the area, intimated to the Internationals to leave immediately the area while an Israeli settler was taping and pushing out them. On April 5 OD volunteers were at the chicken barns near Ma'on Israeli settlement in order to monitor the military escort for Palestinian children of Tuba. At about 7:50am, after the children left with the Israeli Army three settlers chase the OD volunteers forcing them to move quickly in a safe place. Other 2 OD volunteers, who were waiting the children and the escort on Tuwani side, reported what happened to the Israeli soldiers, asked them to came back to check the situation. The soldiers said they will go, but they never reach the spot of the harassment. On April 8 two Palestinian families were harvesting

their land in Kharrouba valley. At about 2:10 pm a group of 4 settlers came out from Havat Ma'on illegal Israeli outpost. The settlers had some dogs with them and they try to push the dog towards the Palestinians. For about one hour the settlers stayed there, observing the Palestinian working. At about 3:10 pm the Palestinian who were harvesting left the spot, and two Palestinians shepherds arrived on the field with their sheep. The same settlers star to ran towards them, but the Palestinians didn't move and the settlers came back inside the outpost. On April 15, at about 12 PM, five Israeli settlers entered the Palestinian village of Tuba, making pictures of the village and provoking the inhabitants with their presence. The Israeli settlers walked among the houses for about an hour, talking with the OD volunteers and with a Palestinian boy, then they left and came back to the outpost of Ma'On. On April 19, at about 10 AM, an Italian group came to Khelly valley in At Tuwani village to harvest with the Palestinian owner of the land. At 10:30 AM the Civilian Security Coordinator of Ma'on Israeli settlement (#4360713) reached the spot forcing the group to interrupt the harvest. The owner of the land took this decision to avoid the declaration of closing the area by Israeli forces as happened in the last month. At 10:45 AM Internationals and Palestinians left the area. On April 21 at about 10am one Israeli settlers with a young boy were grazing his flock on the first step of Meshaha hill, near the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on. After a while they went down in the near cultivated valley of Kharrouba, Palestinian private land. The sheep ate the plants planted by the Palestinian in the valley. The Israeli Police was called but didn't arrive on the spot. At 10.26 am the Israeli settler with his sheep came back inside the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on. On the afternoon of April 21 two Palestinian families from At Tuwani Palestinian village were harvesting their land in Meshaha valley, Palestinian private land near the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on. At about 2:30pm, three Israeli settlers came out from the outpost in the direction of the Palestinian families, stopped above them and observing the Palestinian working. Until the 5:30 pm several Israeli settlers went on the spot and came back into the illegal outpost. The Palestinian decided to don't move from the land and continue their work. At 6:11 an Israeli car (# 1304823) went out from the outpost on the road to Old Havat Ma'on hill near the land where the Palestinian were working. At 6:17pm the Israeli car returned in the outpost. On April 22, two Palestinian families, about 25 people including women and children were harvesting their land in Meshaha valley, Palestinian private land near the illegal outpost of Havat Ma'on. At about 10.17 am a group of 10 settlers came out from the illegal Israeli outpost of Havat Ma'on. The settlers came down close to the Palestinian people and the 2 OD volunteers. In the meanwhile came on the same place 3 Israeli activists. One Palestinian man asked them to move away but 9 Human Rights Violations and Popular Struggle in South Hebron Hills / April 2017 they didn't. The Israeli Police was called but didn't show up. The settlers were there for 30 minutes, prayed and observing the Palestinian working. Then they came back inside the outpost. At about 14.20 PM, while a Palestinian shepherd was coming back home after the harvest, three settlers came out from the outpost and followed him and one OD volunteer. The shepherd and the OD volunteer continued to walk and after a while the settlers came back to the outpost.

SETTLEMENT EXPANSION

On April 4, OD volunteers monitored the works of expansion of Avigayil Israeli outpost. In the south-west side of the outpost, OD volunteers, noticed two new building foundations, one of which clearly inside Palestinian land. At about 11.30 AM Israeli Civil Administration officers reached the spot and delivered two orders.

PALESTINIAN NONVIOLENT POPULAR COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

On April 3 at about 11 am a group of about 40 young Palestinian students of Yatta University gathered in At-Tuwani Palestinian village. They planted some olive threes between the village and the illegal Israeli outpost of Havat Ma'on. For most of the student was the first time in South Hebron Hills area, so the major of the village explain them the situation, the daily pressure made by

the Israeli occupation and the nonviolent choice. At about 12:30 am the action ended. On April 15 a group of International activists went, together with a Palestinian farmers, in Khelly valley, a Palestinian land between Ma'on Israeli settlement and At-Tuwani Palestinian village. They start to plant some olive trees in the valley when at about 11:15 am arrived the Security chief of Ma'on with his jeep (#14760713). Immediately after an Israeli police car (#42125), a DCO jeep (#4978974), a jeep of soldiers, a jeep of Border Police and another settler's car arrived on the spot. The Israeli forces spoke and shook hands with the settlers. At 11.37am two Israeli policeman accompanied by 4 soldiers came down in the valley and show and order of close military area. The order closed all the valley for 24 hours for all Israeli citizens and International. The policeman give 5 minutes to leave the area and they declare that they will arrest any International or Israeli who will stay in the valley. After 5 minutes the policeman order to the International activist to leave, but they demand to sing before leave. They sing for some minutes before the policeman told them again to leave. At about 11:50 everyone, Israeli, Palestinian and International, left the area.

AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES

On April 1, a group of Italian people came visited At Tuwani Palestinian village. The group met the coordinator of the SHH popular committee and the OD volunteers who explained them the situation and the nonviolent choice of the local communities. At 12PM the group left the village. On April 3 a group of 5 people from Italy arrived in at-Tuwani village. They join the OD volunteers for the school patrol, in order to understand their work with the children. After that they stay with a Palestinian farmer on his land, close to Ma'on Israeli settlement, helping him to work at his trees. In the afternoon they had a tour around the village, accompanied by OD volunteers. They spend the night eating with one Palestinian family of the village, and talking with them about the daily problems they have to face because of the Israeli occupation. The day after the group join again OD volunteers for the school patrol in the morning. After that they participate in an action organized by Yatta University. Later OD volunteers accompanied them on a tour of the valleys around At-Tuwani village, in order to explain them their daily protective presence with Palestinian shepherds. After lunch the Coordinator of the Popular Committee of At-Tuwani accompanied them to a visit of the area and Susiya village, where they met another Palestinian activist who told them about the situation of his village and the threat of demolition. In the afternoon they moved, together with OD volunteers to Tuba village, where they spent the night, in one family's house. The day after they visit the Palestinian village of Umm al Kheir, under demolition threat, before coming back to At-Tuwani and leave. On April 10 a delegation of 5 people from Italy arrived in At-Tuwani village. They were hosted in OD volunteers home: the volunteers explain them the situation in the area and their work. After that they had a tour around the village accompanied by OD volunteers who talk with them about all the different kind of pressures and human rights violations carried on by Israeli occupation daily. The group had lunch in At-Tuwani Women Cooperative, where one of the woman explain them their role in the nonviolent resistance. Before leaving they joined the OD volunteers for the school patrol with Palestinian children from Tuba village. On April 10 a group of three people, members of the Italian community Papa Giovanni XXIII arrived to visit At-Tuwani and OD project in the village. They had a tour of the village, accompanied by OD volunteers. The delegation had a meeting with the volunteers about their personal experience in the project and their commitment. After that they had dinner with one family of the village, talking about the daily life under occupation, and their fear and hopes for the future. On April 19 a group of Italians visited At Tuwani village in the morning. The group met OD volunteers and then they moved in Khelly valley to help the Palestinians with the harvest. The presence of Ma'on settlement Civilian Security Coordinator forced the group to stop the work after half an hour. Then the visitors met the coordinator of the SHH popular committee and the women of the local handcraft cooperative to talk about nonviolent resistance and women empowerment. At 12.30 AM the group moved to Susiya Palestinian village.