



MA'AN's Jordan Valley Monthly Update

MA'AN's monthly updates are not intended to be a news source, but instead offer information that is relevant or underreported in the region.

June 2014



New palm trees plantation in Yafit

While in April, water networks were drilled in an area of 50 dunumsto prepare for irrigation, in June, the settlers of Yafit started the plantation of new palm trees.

Military trainings to expel Palestinians

On Wednesday, 12th of June, the Defense Minister Danny Danon responded to a query in the Knesset about the use of military training zones to displace Palestinians and answered "whoever is in an area that [...] has been declared a firing zone will have to be evacuated from there, and yes, we plan to remove more people". Last month, an operation officer from the IDF Central Command, Col. Einav Shalev, told a subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign

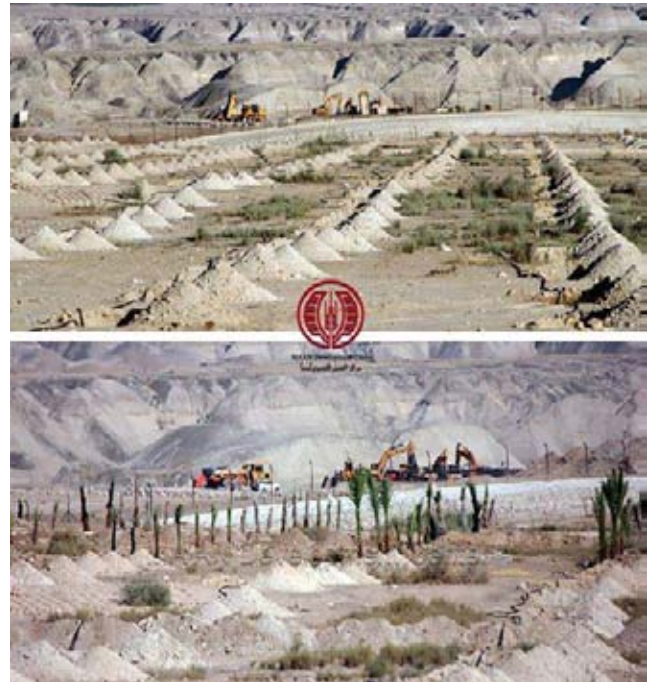
Affairs and Defense Committee that preventing illegal Palestinian construction was one of the main reasons the Israel Defense Forces has recently increased its trainings in the Jordan Valley.

17 years old die from Israeli bullet

The 22nd of June, Sakher DorghamZ aamel Abu al-Hasan, 17 years old, was killed after receiving a bullet in his chest in the region of Al-Maleh in the northern part of the Jordan Valley, while he was herding his livestock. After deeper examination, it appeared to be an Israeli bullet. However, various explanations have been provided by different actors. The spokesperson of the Israeli army declared that the boy found the bullet on the ground and accidentally shot himself. The version from the family

of the deceased and the community of al-Maleh was that he was shot by live ammunition from the Israeli army.

The al-Maleh region comprises of around 1,500 inhabitants and since the occupation in 1967 has faced numerous land confiscations, and due to the restrictions imposed on area C, residents face a high frequency of demolitions. There have been hundreds of demolitions of Palestinian-owned structures including homes and animal shelters. Located next to military bases and around 9 quite violent settlements, the Palestinians of al-Maleh have to face repeated attacks from settlers and Israeli soldiers who often harass the population. In addition, the army carries out regular military trainings in the region, evacuating sometimes families for an indefinite period of time. Furthermore, the army leaves unexploded ordnance in open areas that can cause serious injury or death to the residents of the area.



MA'AN's Work in the Jordan Valley

Empowering Communities in the Jordan Valley and Hebron to Advocate for Security and Justice

On the 30th of June, eight young males and females from the Jordan Valley participated in a workshop at MA'AN's office in Ramallah as representatives from their communities, Marj Na'aje, Jiftlik, Bardala and Furush Beit Dajan. MA'AN's staff led the discussion which focused on how to plan and implement initiatives on security and justice within their own community. They were invited to think about the initiatives that they could implement and to approach their village council for a needs assessment and come out with some ideas for the initiatives.



Jordan Valley Youth for Change

Interactive Career Development Courses were implemented during June for youth aged between 15 and 25 in order to gather knowledge, skills, and attitude to confidently seek new employment opportunities in eight communities from the south and north of Jordan Valley. A network for Jordan Valley Youth was set up, coupled with training in network formation and management for network members. Six initiatives were completed: two were oriented towards the aim to increase their involvement with community through participating in painting the walls of the targeted villages. Another two were aimed to rehabilitate the Al Quds Open University of Jericho outdoor campus facilities, one focused on rehabilitating a clinic in the village of Fasayil. The last initiative facilitated a youth-led advocacy campaign which was implemented in order to encourage local and national stakeholders to invest in the Jordan Valley region with new business.

Supporting Small Farmers in Date Tree Planting

During the month of June, 40 farmers from Marj Ghazal, Zbeidat, Marj Na'aje received 15 date trees each, equating to 600 trees in total. After the distribution, MA'AN's staff visited each beneficiary in order to verify that the trees were all healthy and planted.