



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.

January 2014



Israeli soldiers look on as bulldozers destroy the Palestinian community of Ibziq

Two Communities Targeted with Demolitions on the Same Day

On the 8th of January, 2014, Israeli military and Civil Administration forces carried out two separate demolitions operations in the Jordan Valley. The first location was in the village of al-Auja, just north of the city of Jericho. Five houses and six animal shelters were demolished under the pretext that the structures were built illegally.

The other demolition was carried out in the herding community of Karzaliah, located adjacent to the Palestinian village of al-Jiftlik. The families living there numbered 25 people and have been living there for over 25 years.

The families of the community moved from the village of al-Aqraba to the Jordan Valley in the 1980s. The excuse used for the demolition was that the community was located in the middle of a military zone. The Red Cross brought the community tents on 13 January but Israeli officials confiscated these the next day.

Destruction of a Whole Community

The community of Ibziq has been demolished many times in the past decade. On the 22nd of January, the community faced its first full scale demolition of 2014. Israeli forces came in and even demolished historical mud houses which were built during the 1950s.

Crackdown on Peaceful Protests

Approximately 100 Palestinians and international solidarity activists congregated at the Adam junction, near the village of al-Jiftlik, on the 17th of January, 2014. They came to protest the symbolic Israeli proposal of annexation of the Jordan Valley which occurred earlier in the month. Israeli soldiers quickly quashed the peaceful protest, and in the process arresting one international and one Palestinian under the pretext of throwing stones and attempted confiscation of a weapon from a soldier, both unfounded. A number of the protestors suffered light injuries resulting from excessive force from the Israeli soldiers.

MA'AN's Work in the Jordan Valley

Media Tour for Palestinian and International Journalists



In an attempt to further expose various media outlets to Israeli violations in the Jordan Valley, a MA'AN employee organized and brought out 15 journalists, from different backgrounds, to four Palestinian communities in the Jordan Valley to show the situation. Journalists from Egypt Today, al-Jazeera, al-Wattan, Reuters, Palestine TV, al-Haya, and others were among the participants of the tour.

Film Showing the Difficulties of Youth with Disabilities in the Jordan Valley

In early January, 2014, MA'AN released its first video of the year, entitled "Having Disabilities in the Jordan Valley." The film discusses a very important topic, which is the struggle of disabled Palestinian youth in the Jordan Valley. This is the first video on the topic and with it MA'AN hopes to shed light on an issue that has been neglected by international and Palestinian organizations alike.

Youth Employment Creation

As part of our project with Save the Children, entitled The Jordan Valley Youth for Change, 60 youth have taken part in a two week training geared towards preparing them for the income generating component of the project. In coordination with another project of ours with UNDP, 30 grants will be given to the youth to create their own businesses. Their training gave them many of the skills and much of the knowledge that they will need when they begin to deal with the difficulties and responsibilities of running their own businesses. The youth are working in pairs and groups to start their business projects.