Dispossessed of 98% of water resources: Palestinian life in the Jordan Valley

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Most of the water is used by the Israeli settlements to produce dates, grapes, bananas and peppers which are predominantly exported to Europe. The occupation in the Jordan valley is about the profit that these products create. Since 1967, 36 settlements have been cropped up, inhabited by 6,400 settlers. The settlers control the 98% of the water resources in the valley.

As a result of this occupation, 5 out of 6 Palestinians that used to live in the valley before 1967 have been forced to leave. In 1967, the Palestinian population was larger than 320,000 people, today about 50,000 people still live in the valley.

The competition between the Palestinians farmers and the Israeli settlements is unsustainable. While the Israeli settlements enjoy a 75% discount on water and electricity, supported by the States as well as from the Jewish National Fund, the Christian Fund and the Woman Christian Zionist movement in the US; the Palestinians people have limited access to water and cannot build any infrastructure without permission. Many of their houses have been demolished during the years. People do not have enough water to grow their crops.

Only five Palestinians villages, plus Jericho, that are still under the Palestinian control (area A and B): Al Auja, Fasayil. Abu Ajai, Al Haladidya and Ein Al Hilue. The people who live in these villages are resisting the occupation simply with their presence. The bedouins who live in Al Auja village, decided to become static, afraid to leave the land and to do and to be forbidden to return later.

Al Hadidiya village was inhabited by 5,000 people before 1967. The area of the original village is now occupied by two Israeli settlements and a military area. 450 people resist and live in tents and temporary houses on the outskirts of these settlements. These people have no access to electricity and depend on water tanks. Some of these people are forced to work in the settlements, where once their family used to live.

Fasayil village is located partially in area B and partially in area C. While entering in the area C the road ends and no constructions, nor international support are allowed. The land in the Palestinian village is arid, while the Israeli settlement is flourish the same name of Fasayil, is flourishing. The difference is the access to the water, that is enjoyed by the settlements and denied to the Palestinians.

The Israeli Defense Force uses the area of the Jordan Valley to conduct any kinds of training. The signals 'military zone' and 'firing area' have been positioned in front of many Palestinian villages. This serves to justify military actions in the area.

Many of the Israeli citizens who inhabit the settlements don't even know that those settlements are not part of Israel. At the same time, many Palestinians in the West Bank are not aware of the situation in the Jordan Valley. The occupation in the Jordan Valley denies the people access to their basic needs, thereby forcing them to find other places to live their lives.

Nicola Zolin, 2011
Final Document

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