

Qarawat Bani Hassan Town Profile



Prepared by



The Applied Research Institute – Jerusalem

Funded by



Spanish Cooperation

2013

Acknowledgments

ARIJ hereby expresses its deep gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) for their funding of this project.

ARIJ is grateful to the Palestinian officials in the ministries, municipalities, joint services councils, village committees and councils, and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) for their assistance and cooperation with the project team members during the data collection process.

ARIJ also thanks all the staff who worked throughout the past couple of years towards the accomplishment of this work.

Background

This report is part of a series of booklets, which contain compiled information about each city, town, and village in the Salfit Governorate. These booklets came as a result of a comprehensive study of all localities in Salfit Governorate, which aims at depicting the overall living conditions in the governorate and presenting developmental plans to assist in developing the livelihood of the population in the area. It was accomplished through the "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment;" the project funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The "Village Profiles and Needs Assessment" was designed to study, investigate, analyze and document the socio-economic conditions and the needed programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current unsecure political, economic and social conditions in Salfit Governorate.

The project's objectives are to survey, analyze, and document the available natural, human, socioeconomic and environmental resources, and the existing limitations and needs assessment for the development of the rural and marginalized areas in Salfit Governorate. In addition, the project aims at preparing strategic developmental programs and activities to mitigate the impact of the current political, social, and economic instability with the focus on the agricultural sector.

All locality profiles in Arabic and English are available online at <http://vprofile.arij.org>.

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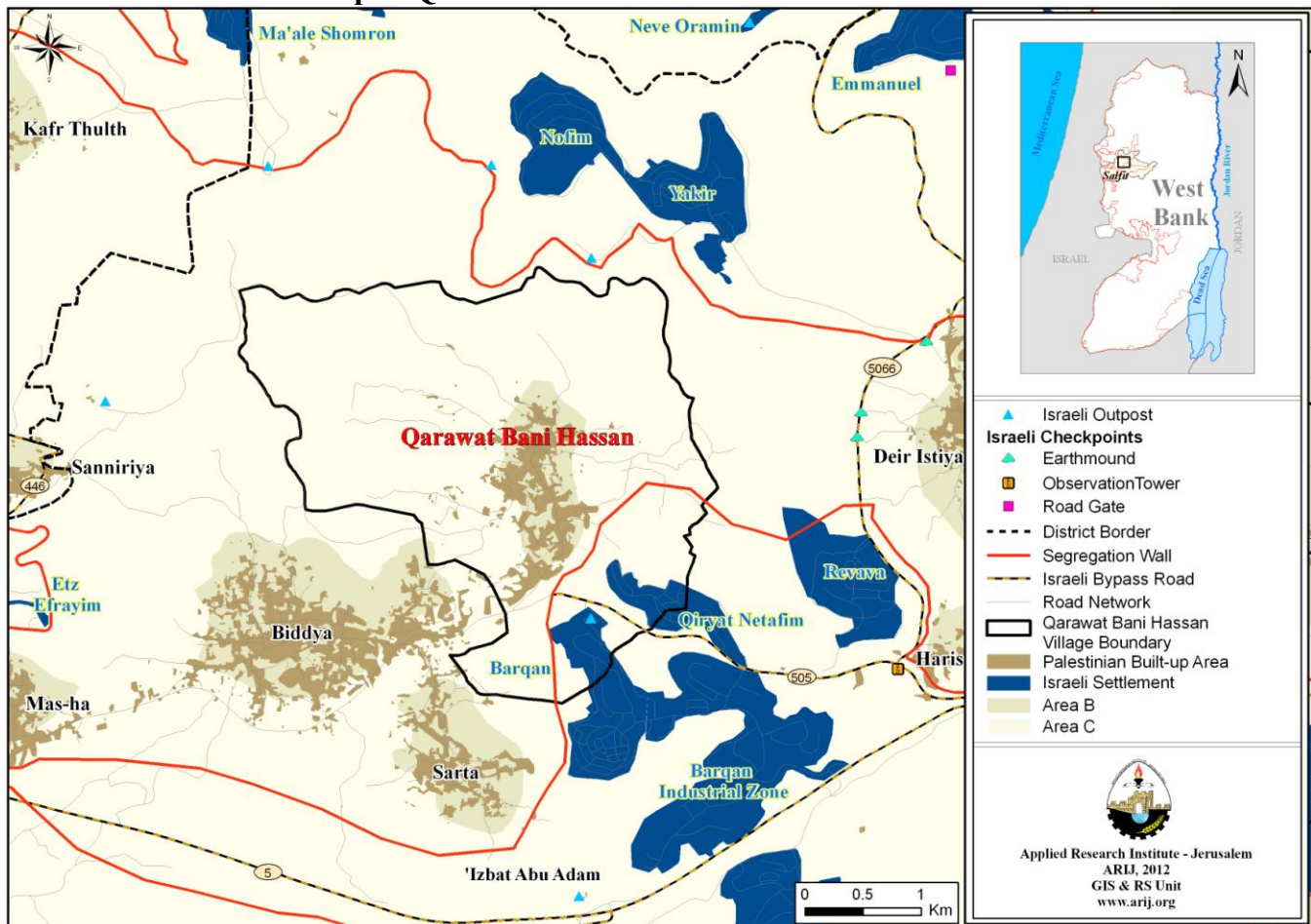
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Qarawat Bani Hassan Town Profile

Location and Physical Characteristics

Qarawat Bani Hassan is a Palestinian town in Salfit Governorate located 8.9 km north-west of Salfit City. Qarawat Bani Hassan is bordered by Deir Istiya and Haris villages to the east, Sarta to the south, Biddya town to the west, and Deir Istiya to the north (ARIJ-GIS, 2013) (See Map 1).

Map 1: Qarawat Bani Hassan location and borders



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Qarawat Bani Hassan is located at an altitude of 391 m above sea level with a mean annual rainfall of 611.6 mm. The average annual temperature is 19 C° and the average annual humidity is approximately 61.6% (ARIJ-GIS, 2013).

Since 1996, Qarawat Bani Hassan has been governed by a Municipal Council which is currently administrated by 11 members appointed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). There are 8

employees working in the council, which owns a permanent headquarters that is included within the 'Joint Services Council of West Salfit.' The Council also owns a vehicle for the collection of solid waste (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

It is the responsibility of the Municipal Council to provide a number of services to the residents of Qarawat Bani Hassan, including (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012):

- The establishment and maintenance of the drinking water and electricity networks.
- Waste collection, road construction, restoration, street cleaning and social development services.
- Organization of construction and licensing processes.
- Implementation of projects and studies for the town.
- Organization of transportation.
- Provision of educational kindergartens.

History

Qarawat Bani Hassan town was named in relation to a righteous man called Abu Muhammad Abdul Hamid ben Madd al Qarawani al Hassani descended from the Al Husniya tribes which were responsible for controlling and protecting the trade roads; from Jaffa Gate in Jerusalem until 'Azzun village in the northern West Bank. The word "Qarawat" is derived from the word "Qura" which means generosity or good hospitality.

The town was established in 1600 AD with its residents deriving from Al Husniya tribes whom are descendants of the Arabian Peninsula (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

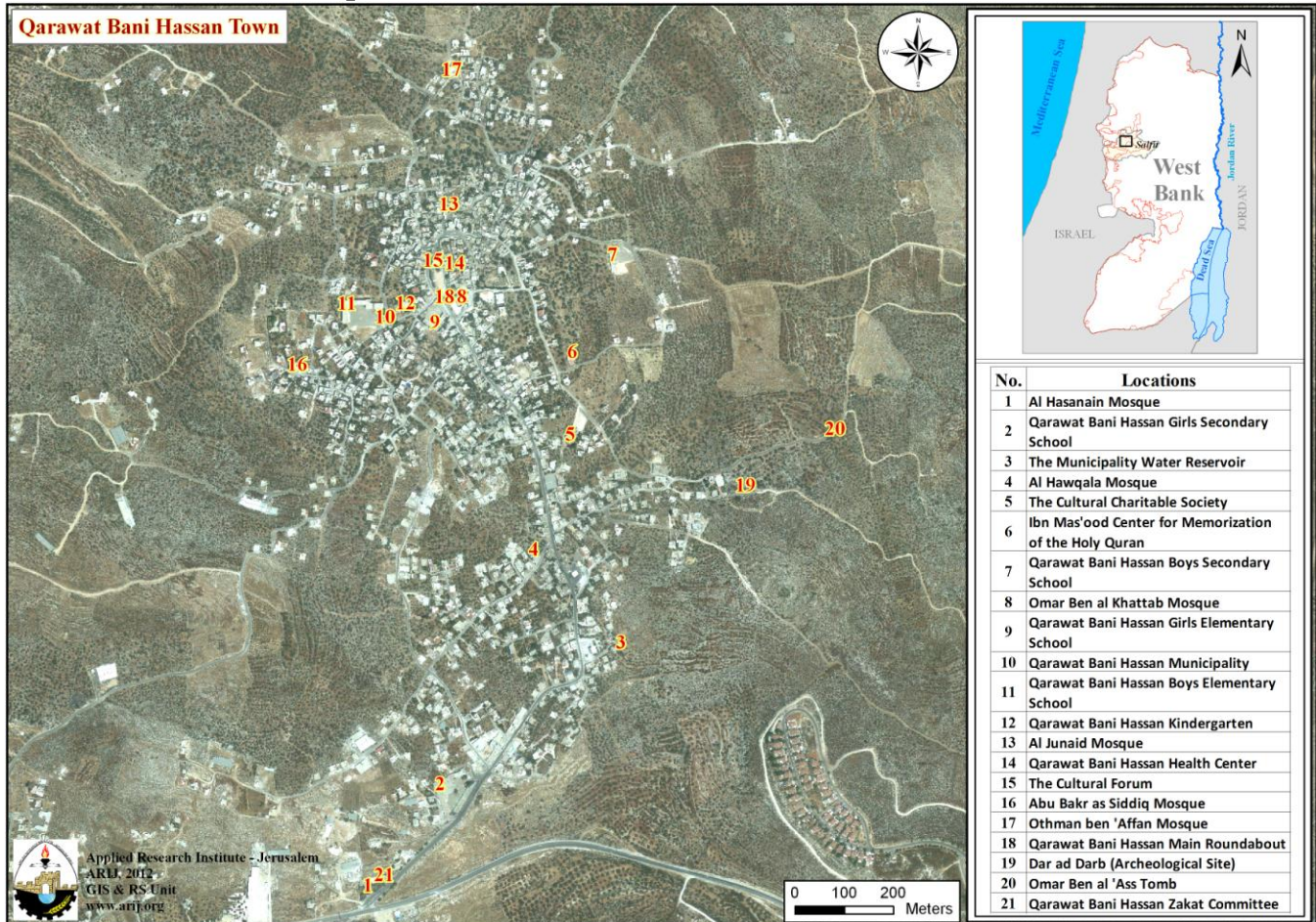
Photo of Qarawat Bani Hassan



Religious and Archaeological Sites

There are seven mosques in the town; Omar Ben al Khattab, Al Muhsineen, Al Hawqala, Al Junaid, Othman Ben 'Affan, Abu Bakr as Siddiq and Ali Ben Abi Talib Mosques. The town has several sites of archaeological interest including: Al Burj Building, Mansura Palace, Sabbah Palace, Ad Darb House and Al Jame' Pool. One should note here that none of these sites are qualified for tourism (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012) (See Map 2).

Map 2: Main locations in Qarawat Bani Hassan Town



Population Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Population

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the total population of Qarawat Bani Hassan in 2007 was 3,752, of whom 1,979 were male and 1,773 female. There were additionally 669 households recorded as living in 732 housing units.

Age Groups and Gender

The 'General Census of Population and Housing' carried out by PCBS in 2007 showed the distribution of age groups in Qarawat Bani Hassan is as follows: 48.3% were less than 15 years of age, 48.9% were between 15 and 64 years of age, and 2.7% were 65 years of age or older. Data also showed that the sex ratio of males to females in the town is 111.6:100, meaning that males and females constitute 52.7% and 47.3% of the population, respectively.

Families

Qarawat Bani Hassan residents are from several families, including 'Assi, Rayyan and Mir'ie (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

Immigration

The field survey conducted by ARIJ staff showed that around 50 people have left the town since Al Aqsa Intifada in 2000 (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

Education

According to the results of the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, the illiteracy rate among the local population is approximately 7%, of whom 77.4% are females. Of the literate population, 17.3% could only read and write, with no formal education, 27% had elementary education, 26.6% had preparatory education, 16% had secondary education, and 6.2% completed higher education. Table 1 shows the educational level in the town of Qarawat Bani Hassan by sex and educational attainment in 2007.

Table 1: Qarawat Bani Hassan population (10 years and above) by sex and educational attainment

Sex	Illite- rate	Can read & write	Element- ary	Preparat- ory	Second- ary	Associate Diploma	Bachelor	Higher Diploma	Master	PhD	Un- known	Total
M	39	216	354	331	218	41	71	1	6	1	0	1,278
F	134	212	314	327	179	11	21	0	1	0	1	1,200
T	173	428	668	658	397	52	92	1	7	1	1	2,478

Source: PCBS, 2009.

There are four public schools in the town, all of which are run by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (see Table 2).

Table 2: Schools in Qarawat Bani Hassan by name, stage, sex, and supervising authority (2011/2012)

School Name	Supervising Authority	Sex
Qarawat Bani Hassan Boys' Secondary School	Government	Male
Qarawat Bani Hassan Boys' Elementary School	Government	Male
Qarawat Bani Hassan Girls' Secondary Higher School	Government	Female
Qarawat Bani Hassan Girls' Elementary School	Government	Female

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

In the town there are 1,333 students, 81 teachers, and 50 classes. The average number of students per teacher in the school is nearly 16, whilst the average number of students per class is approximately 27 (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012).

There are two kindergartens in Qarawat Bani Hassan town, all run by one private organization (Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012) (See table 3 below).

Table 3: Kindergartens in Qarawat Bani Hassan town by name and supervising authority

Name of Kindergarten	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	Supervising Authority
The Modern Education Kindergarten	3	3	Private
Qarawat Bani Hassan Kindergarten	4	4	Private

Source: Directorate of Education in Salfit, 2012

The educational sector in Qarawat Bani Hassan faces a number of obstacles, including (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012):

- Students reaching the Girl's secondary school due to its removed location from residential areas.
- The lack of public services within the town, including transportation, which increases students' burden.

Health Status

Qarawat Bani Hassan has a governmental mother and child care center, a governmental general physician clinic, a private dental clinic and a private pharmacy. The town also has two ambulances; one is owned by the Red Crescent Society and the other is privately owned. In the absence of required health services or in emergencies, patients are transferred to Yasir Arafat Governmental Hospital in Salfit city (25 km away) or to the Medical Scientific Society in Biddya town (5 km away) (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

The health sector in the town faces some obstacles and problems, principally (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012):

- The lack of specialized physicians in the town.
- The lack of a comprehensive health center that includes all medical services.
- The lack of residential physicians working all day in the town's clinic.
- The lack of an ambulance.

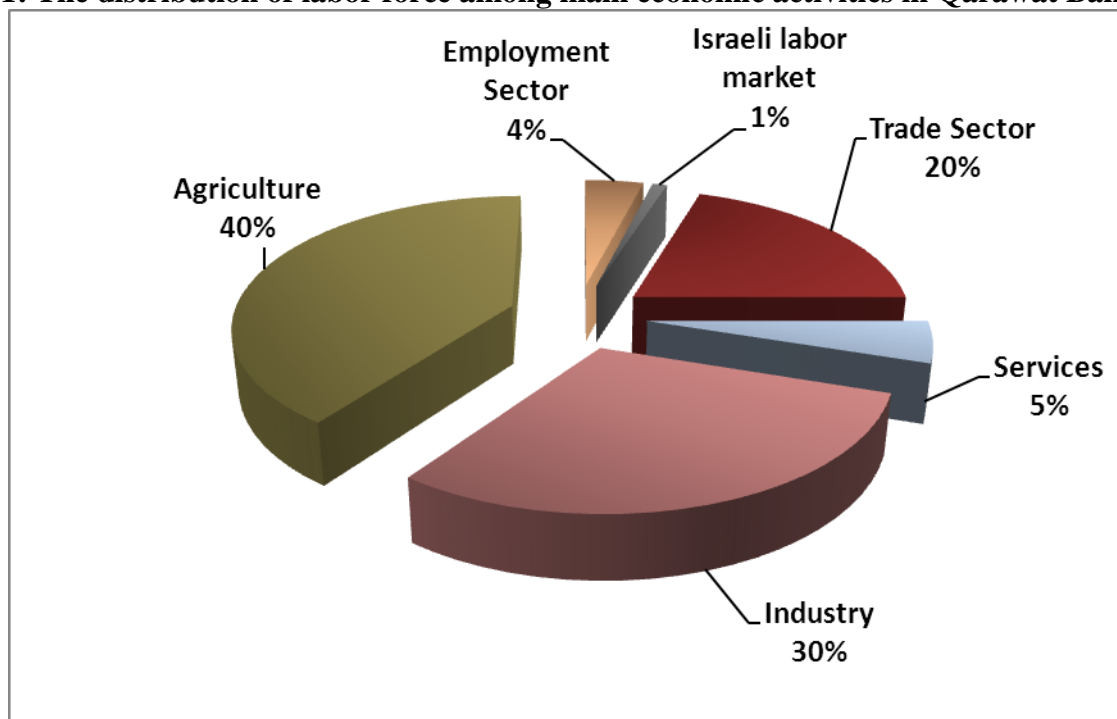
Economic Activities

The economy in Qarawat Bani Hassan is mainly dependent on the agricultural sector which absorbs approximately 40% of the town's workforce (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012) (See Figure 1).

The results of a field survey conducted by the ARIJ team in 2012 for the distribution of labor by economic activity in Qarawat Bani Hassan are as follows:

- Agriculture sector (40%)
- Industry (30%)
- Trade sector (20%)
- Services sector (5%)
- Government or other employees sector (4%)
- Israeli labor market (1%)

Figure 1: The distribution of labor force among main economic activities in Qarawat Bani Hassan



Source: Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012

Qarawat Bani Hassan has 70 groceries, 4 fruits and vegetables stores, 2 bakeries, 2 butcheries, 10 service stores, 12 different professional workshops, 2 olive oil-presses and 2 workshops for the maintenance of air conditioning and cooling (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

In 2012, the unemployment rate in Qarawat Bani Hassan reached 15% and the groups most affected economically by the Israeli restrictions have been (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012):

- Agricultural workers.
- Workers in the trade sector.
- Industrial workers.
- Former workers in Israel.
- Workers in the services sector.

Labor Force

According to the PCBS Population, Housing and Establishment Census-2007, 31.6% of Qarawat Bani Hassan labor force was economically active, of whom 94% were employed, 68.3% were not economically active, 54.5% were students, and 34.8% were housekeepers (See Table 4).

Table 4: Qarawat Bani Hassan population (10 years of age and above) by sex and employment status

Sex	Economically active				Non-economically active						Not stated	Total
	Employed	Currently Unemployed	Unemployed (never worked)	Total	Student	House-keeping	Unable to work	Not working & not looking for work	Others	Total		
M	682	25	17	724	447	0	78	7	22	554	0	1,278
F	55	0	5	60	475	588	69	5	1	1,138	2	1,200
T	737	25	22	784	922	588	147	12	23	1,692	2	2,478

M: Male; F: Female; T: Total.

Source: PCBS, 2009.

Agricultural Sector

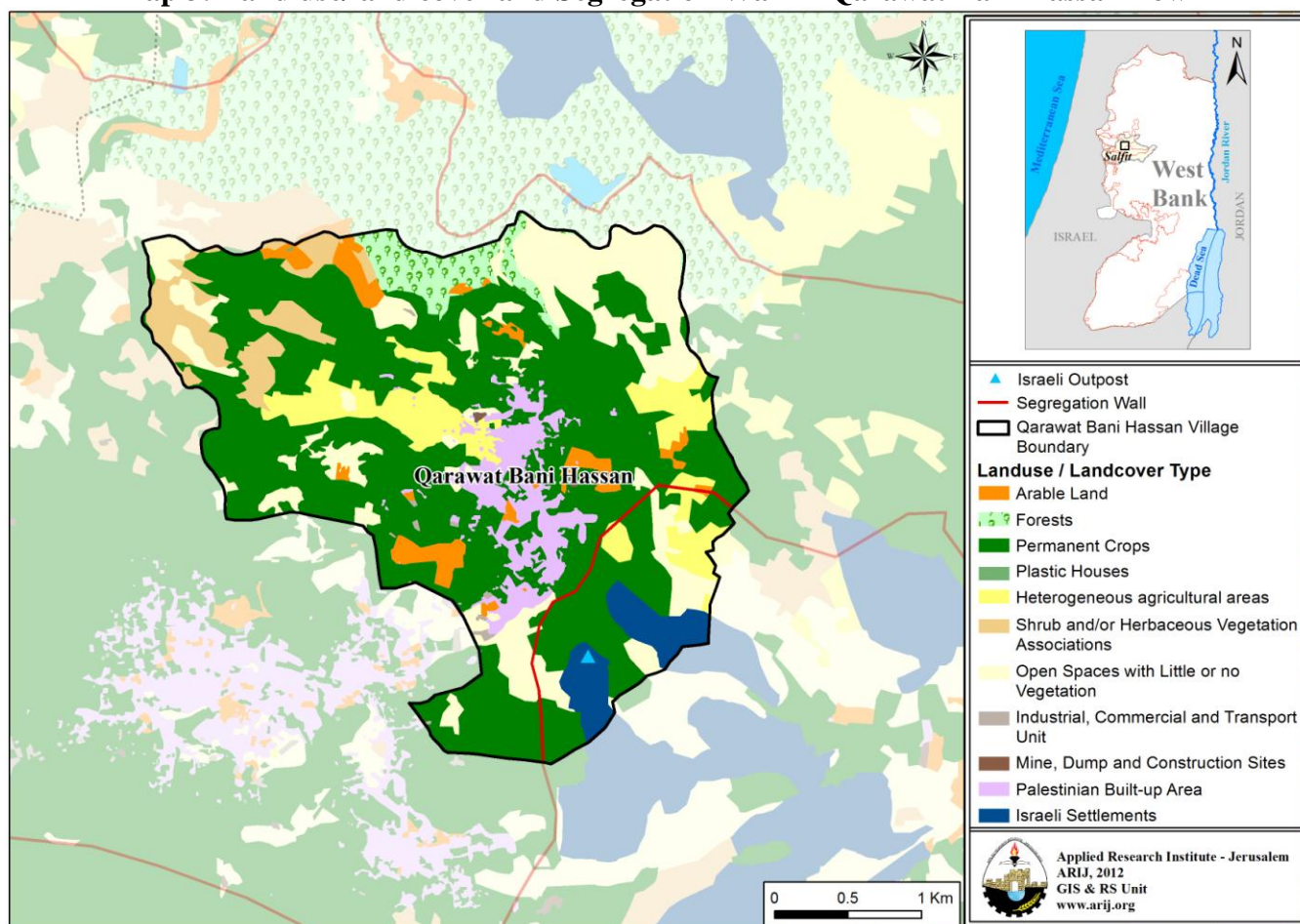
Qarawat Bani Hassan has a total area of approximately 9,445 dunums of which 6,582 are 'arable' land and 553 dunums are registered as 'residential' (See Table 5 and Map 3).

Table 5: Land use and land cover in Qarawat Bani Hassan town (area in dunum)

Total Area	Built up Area	Agricultural area (6,582)				Inland water	Forests	Open Spaces	Area of Industrial, Commercial & Transport Unit	Area of Settlements, Military Bases & Wall Zone
		Permanent Crops	Green-houses	Range-lands	Arable lands					
9,443	553	5,780	2	459	341	0	361	1,581	28	340

Source: ARIJ – GIS Unit, 2012.

Map 3: Land use/land cover and Segregation Wall in Qarawat Bani Hassan Town



Source: ARIJ - GIS Unit, 2013.

Table 6 shows the different types of rain-fed and irrigated open-cultivated vegetables in Qarawat Bani Hassan. The most commonly cultivated crops within the area are tomatoes, squashes and cauliflowers.

Table 6: Total area of rain-fed and irrigated open cultivated vegetables in Qarawat Bani Hassan (area in dunums)

Fruity vegetables		Leafy vegetables		Green legumes		Bulbs		Other vegetables		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
15	32	0	16	0	8	0	3	0	0	15	59

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

Table 7 shows the different types of fruit trees planted in the area. Qarawat Bani Hassan is famous for olive cultivation and there are approximately 2,790 dunums of town lands planted with olive trees.

Table 7: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Qarawat Bani Hassan (area in dunums)

Olives		Citrus		Stone-fruits		Pome fruits		Nuts		Other fruits		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
2,790	0	0	0	38	0	2	0	0	0	76	0	2,906	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

In terms of field crops and forage in Qarawat Bani Hassan, cereals (particularly wheat) are the most cultivated, covering an area of approximately 170 dunums (See Table 8).

Table 8: Total area of horticulture and olive trees in Qarawat Bani Hassan (area in dunums)

Cereals		Bulbs		Dry legumes		Oil crops		Forage crops		Stimulating crops		Other crops		Total Area	
Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.	Rf.	Irr.
170	0	15	0	26	0	3	0	33	0	0	0	13	0	260	0

Rf.: Rain-fed; Irr.: Irrigated.

Source: Ministry of agriculture-Salfit, 2010

The difference between the two sets of results obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and ARIJ's GIS Unit in the size of agricultural areas is explained by the difference in each organization's definition of land coverage and ownership. The MoA and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2011) conducted a survey which used a definition of agricultural areas based on land ownership. Therefore, the areas included in the survey were those of actual holdings of agricultural areas and did not consider fragmented and small seasonal cultivated areas in residential and agricultural areas. ARIJ's survey, however, indicated the existence of a high proportion of small and fragmented holdings (home gardens) throughout the occupied Palestinian territories. This therefore accounts for the larger area of agricultural holdings calculated by ARIJ.

The field survey conducted by ARIJ shows that just 10% of the residents in Qarawat Bani Hassan rear and keep domestic animals such as sheep and goats (See Table 9).

Table 9: Livestock in Qarawat Bani Hassan

Cows*	Sheep	Camels	Poultry	Bee Hives
8	1,956	0	50,000	134

*Including cows, bull calves, heifer calves and bulls

Source: Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture - Salfit, 2010

There are approximately 45 kilometers of agricultural roads in the town, divided as follows (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012):

Table 10: Agricultural Roads in Qarawat Bani Hassan Town and their Lengths

Suitability of Agricultural Roads	Length (km)
For vehicles	10
For tractors and agricultural machinery only	5
For animals only	10
Unsuitable	20

Source: Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012

The agricultural sector in the town faces a number of problems, including (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012):

- The lack of capital for agricultural projects.
- The difficulty in marketing agricultural products, in part due to the local market being invaded with competitive products.

- The lack of experienced manpower in the agricultural sector.
- The confiscation of lands by Israeli occupation forces, and repeated attacks on agricultural lands and machinery by settlers.
- The lack of accessibility to agricultural lands given the rugged condition of agricultural roads
- The lack of economic feasibility in many agricultural projects.

Institutions and Services

Qarawat Bani Hassan town has number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various sectors of society. These include (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012):

- **Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipal Council:** Founded in 1996 by the Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of taking care of the town's issues and providing various services to its population, such as infrastructure services.
- **The Cultural Forum:** Founded in 2002 by the Reconstruction Committee in the town and is interested in providing citizens with various cultural and educational services.
- **The Cooperative Agricultural Society:** Founded in 2010 by the Agricultural Relief Society with the goal of producing and marketing organic oil in addition to providing farmers with technical guidance services.

Infrastructure and Natural Resources

Electricity and Telecommunication Services:

Qarawat Bani Hassan has been connected to a public electricity network since 1982. It is served by the Israeli 'Qatariya Electricity Company,' which represents the main source of electricity in the town. Approximately 95% of the housing units in the town are connected to the network. The town residents face a number of problems concerning electricity, primarily the improper distribution of the electricity network, the lack of sufficient transformers and the network's need for expansion to include new facilities (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

Qarawat Bani Hassan is also connected to a telecommunication network and approximately 60% of the housing units within the town boundaries are connected to phone lines (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

Transportation Services:

There are 4 taxis and 100 private cars in Qarawat Bani Hassan. However, residents suffer from the lack of vehicles to serve citizens in the town, hence, residents use their private cars for transportations (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012). There are 15 km of main roads and 40 km of secondary roads in Qarawat Bani Hassan (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012) (See Table 11).

Table 11: Roads in Qarawat Bani Hassan town

Status of Internal Roads	Road Length (km)	
	Main	Sub
1. Paved & in good condition	10	5
2. Paved but in poor condition	5	15
3. Unpaved	-	20

Source: Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012

Water Resources:

Qarawat Bani Hassan is provided with water by the West Bank Water Department through the public water network established in 1985 with approximately 90% of the housing being connected. (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012)

In 2010, the quantity of water supplied to Qarawat Bani Hassan town was approximately 96,000 cubic meters/year which makes the estimated rate of water supply per capita around 64 liters/day (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012). However, no Qarawat Bani Hassan citizen consumes this amount of water due to water losses, which are estimated at 22% (PWA, 2010). These losses happen at the main source, major transport lines, in the distribution network, and at the household level. Therefore, taking into account water losses, the rate of water consumption per capita in Qarawat Bani Hassan is 50 liters per day (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012). The average water consumption of Qarawat Bani Hassan residents is low compared with the minimum quantity of 100 liters per capita per day proposed by the World Health Organization. Each cubic meter of water from the public network costs 3.5 NIS (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

The town additionally has 3 water springs with the yielded water being used for cultivation and livestock production. Also, located in the town is a public water reservoir with a capacity of 500 cubic meters in addition to 100 rainwater household harvesting cisterns (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

Sanitation:

Qarawat Bani Hassan lacks a public sewerage network and most of the population use cesspits and septic tanks, as a main means for wastewater disposal (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012).

Based on the estimated daily per capita water consumption, the approximated quantity of wastewater generated per day, is 164 cubic meters, or 59,904 cubic meters annually. At the individual level, it is estimated that the per capita wastewater generation is approximately 40 liters per day. The wastewater collected by cesspits and septic tanks is discharged by wastewater tankers directly to open areas or nearby valleys with little regard for the environment. Here it is noted that there is no wastewater treatment either at the source or at the disposal sites and this poses a serious environmental threat in addition to a public health risk (ARIJ - WERU, 2012).

Solid Waste Management:

The Joint Services Council of West Salfit is responsible for the collection and disposal of solid waste generated by citizens and establishments in the town. As the process of solid waste management is costly, a monthly fee amounting to 15 NIS/ month is charged to the population served by domestic solid

waste collection and transportation services. However, the collected fees are not considered sufficient for a good management of solid waste, with the poor management system exacerbated by the fact that only 80% of these fees are collected from the citizens (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012)

Most of the population in Qarawat Bani Hassan benefits from solid waste services, whereby waste is collected from households, institutions, shops, and public squares in plastic bags, and placed in 100 containers (of 1 m³ capacity) located around the Municipality. The Joint Council collects the solid waste three times weekly and transports it using a waste vehicle to the town's dumping site, 5 km from the town, where it is subsequently burnt and buried in an unhealthy way (Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012)

The daily per capita rate of solid waste production in Qarawat Bani Hassan is 1.05kg. Thus the estimated quantity of solid waste produced per day from the Qarawat Bani Hassan residents is nearly 4.3 tons, or 1,580 tons per year (ARIJ-WERU, 2012).

Environmental Conditions

Like other towns and villages in the Governorate, Qarawat Bani Hassan experiences several environmental problems which must be addressed and solved. These problems can be identified as follows:

Water Crisis

- Water is cut off by the West Bank Water Department for long periods of time during summer in numerous neighborhoods of the town for several reasons:
 1. Israeli control over Palestinian water resources causes problems in the organization of water pumping and its distribution among populations. The West Bank Water Department distributes water to various areas on an interval basis because the amount of water available is not sufficient to simultaneously supply everyone's needs. In addition, the West Bank Water Department purchase water from Israeli Companies in order to meet the citizens' water needs.
 2. High rate of water losses, due to the water network's aged condition in need of rehabilitation and renovation.

Wastewater Management

- The absence of a public sewage network in the town means that residents are forced to use unhygienic cesspits for the disposal of wastewater, and/or to discharge wastewater in the streets. This is particularly common in winter, as citizens cannot afford the high cost of sewage tankers during this period. These methods facilitate environmental damage, health problems, and the spread of epidemics and diseases in the town. This wastewater also contaminates the groundwater because most cesspits are built without lining, to avoid the need to use sewage tankers and allow wastewater to enter into the ground. Moreover, the untreated wastewater collected from cesspits by sewage tankers is disposed of in open areas without concern for the damage it causes to the environment and to residents' health.

Solid Waste Management:

- Zahrat al Finjan landfill in Jenin Governorate (approximately 32 km in distance from the center of Salfit Governorate) is considered the central sanitary landfill which is supposed to serve Salfit Governorate. However, the Municipalities and Village Councils in Salfit Governorate do not transfer the solid waste to Zahrat al Finjan landfill, but rather get rid of waste in random dumps scattered throughout various locations in the Governorate. This is due to the high costs of transporting and disposing waste in the landfill. As a result, wastes are being disposed randomly in these landfills causing an abomination to health, and leading to the proliferation of harmful flies, insects, and mice, as well as the bad odors, toxic gases and black smoke which emits when burned. All of these have harmful effects on human health as well the surrounding environment.
- The lack of a central sanitary landfill to serve Qarawat Bani Hassan and the other neighboring communities in the Governorate is due mainly to the obstacles created by the Israeli authorities for local and national institutions in granting licenses to establish such a landfill. This is because the appropriate land for a landfill site falls within, Area C (Oslo Accords II) which is under Israeli civil and administrative control. Additionally, the implementation of such projects depends on funding from donor countries. The lack of a sanitary landfill is a source of pollution to the groundwater and soil through the leachate produced from the solid waste, which produces bad odors and a distortion of the landscape.

Impact of the Israeli Occupation**Geopolitical status in Qarawat Bani Hassan**

According to the Oslo II Interim Agreement signed between the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel on 28th September 1995, Qarawat Bani Hassan was divided into areas “B” and “C”. Approximately 843 dunums (9% of the town’s total area) were assigned as area B, where the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has complete control over civil matters but Israel continues to have overriding responsibility for security. Area B constitutes most of the inhabited Palestinian areas, including Municipalities, villages and some refugee camps. It is worth mentioning that most of the town’s population resides in area B. The rest of the town’s area, constituting 8,600 dunums (91% of the total area), is classified as area C, where Israel retains full control over security and administration related to the territory (table 12). In area C Palestinian building and land management is prohibited unless through consent or authorization by the Israeli Civil Administration. Most of the lands lying within area C are agricultural areas, lands confiscated for Israeli settlements, open spaces and others.

Table 12: The Geopolitical Divisions of Qarawat Bani Hassan – Salfit Governorate

Area	Area in dunums	Percent of Total town area
Area A	0	0
Area B	843	9
Area C	8,600	91
Nature Reserve	0	0
Total	9,443	100

Source: ARIJ-GIS, 2013

The Israeli Occupation Practices in Qarawat Bani Hassan Town

Qarawat Bani Hassan town has been subjected to numerous Israeli confiscations for the benefit of various Israeli objectives, represented in the construction of Israeli settlements, checkpoints, outposts and bypass roads on the town territories, in addition to the segregation plan represented by the Segregation Wall. That which follows is a breakdown of the Israeli confiscations to have negatively affected Qarawat Bani Hassan town territories:

Throughout the years of occupation, Israel has confiscated 341 dunums of Qarawat Bani Hassan town lands (3.6% of the total town area) for the establishment of two Israeli settlements; “Barqan Industrial Zone” and “Qiryat Netafim”. Both settlements are located on the town’s southern lands and will be separated from Qarawat Bani Hassan town by the Segregation Wall that is planned to be constructed in the area. Together, both settlements are inhabited by approximately 2000 Israeli settlers (See Table 13).

Table 13: Israeli settlements established on lands of Qarawat Bani Hassan town

Settlement Name	Establishment Date	Lands confiscated from Qarawat Bani Hassan town	Population
Barqan	1981	167	1359
Qiryat Netafim	1982	174	634
Total		341	1993

Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ, 2013

Israeli settlers living in settlements established on Qarawat Bani Hassan lands have had a significant impact on local Palestinian residents and their properties. These attacks have contributed to the loss of Palestinian lands adjacent to settlements as landowners are prevented from accessing their plots, which have been fenced in with barbed wire and planted with trees. Israeli settlers have also carried out a series of attacks against Palestinian landowners in an attempt to intimidate them and deter them from returning to their lands adjacent to the aforementioned settlements.

Following the outbreak of the Second Palestinian Intifada in September 2000, the Israeli occupation authorities established an Israeli military checkpoint on the northern entrance of Salfit city, which is represented as an iron gate established near the western entrance of Ariel settlement. Closing the northern entrance of Salfit city has had a negative impact on Palestinians lives during the last decade, as it restricts their freedom of movement and connection with villages north of Salfit and the rest of the West Bank. This has caused numerous material losses for Palestinians and increased economic burden,

as they are forced to use longer distances in order to reach villages in the north. The closure of this checkpoint was carried out under the pretext of protecting settlers in Ariel settlement as well as other nearby settlements. This checkpoint represents a part of the Segregation Plan adopted by the occupation forces through the establishment of settlements, annexing them through the Segregation Wall and changing Palestinians' movement, through the establishment of military checkpoints on roads. The checkpoint north of Salfit was closed to Palestinians for more than 10 years and was recently partially opened (during 2011) for public vehicles only, while private cars are still forbidden to cross it. Due to the closure of this main entrance to Salfit city and its neighboring villages, citizens started using the eastern entrance of the city which passes through Yasuf and Iskaka villages, then to Salfit city. However, citizens are forced to cross through another military checkpoint that is considered representative of daily Palestinian suffering. The checkpoint is called "Za'tara" (Kfar Taffuh) military checkpoint which separates the center from north of the West Bank.

Moreover, the Israeli Government has confiscated thousands of dunums of agricultural and non-agricultural lands to open several bypass roads stretching thousands of kilometers from the north to south of the West Bank. This has been carried out in order to link Israeli settlements, dismember Palestinian lands and enhance their security control over it. Israel has also confiscated more land from Qarawat Bani Hassan to its south, for the construction of the Israeli bypass road no. 505 (or the "Trans-Samaritan" road) which was a main road passing through Qarawat Bani Hassan, Bidya and Mas-ha villages and was replaced by the Israeli occupation authorities with a new bypass road section no. 5 which circles the above villages without passing through them. The old section has become under the sole use of "Barqan" and "Qiryat Netafim" settlements. The real threat of these bypass roads however lies in the buffer zone formed by the IOF, extending approximately 75 m on each side. These buffer zones dramatically increase the total area of land affected by the construction of the bypass roads.

In addition, lands of Qarawat Bani Hassan town have been forcefully seized by Israeli settlers to establish "Ma'ale Israel" outpost, in an attempt to expand "Barqan" Israeli industrial settlement to the north and control more Palestinian lands. Moreover, during the past two decades Israel constructed 232 outposts¹ (ARIJ, UMD 2012) within the West Bank which are considered the nucleus for the development of new settlements. Outposts are composed of mobile caravans on the lands stolen by the settlers and are a contiguity of a mother settlement that is near. It is noted that the epidemic of Israeli outposts started with a "Sharonian"² call for Jewish settlers to take control over Palestinian hilltops to prevent transferring them to Palestinians in negotiations. Although the successive Israeli governments haven't legalized this phenomenon, they managed to find a security and logistic cover to justify the act and its continuity. After 2001, the then Prime Minister Ariel Sharon unleashed the expansion of outposts which has led to a significant increase in the number of outposts within Palestinian areas. In addition, the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) helped Israeli settlers to move and settle in those outposts, in addition to protecting and providing them with the necessary infrastructure to guarantee their continued existence.

The Israeli Segregation Wall Plan in Qarawat Bani Hassan Town

¹ Netanyahu's infamous growing Legacy of Housing Units construction in Israeli settlements in the occupied State of Palestine.

http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=6039

² Ariel Sharon, Israeli Foreign Minister, addressing a meeting of the Tsomet Party, Agence France Presse, Nov. 15, 1998. http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Talk:Ariel_Sharon

The Israeli Segregation Wall plan has had a negative and destructive impact on Qarawat Bani Hassan residents. The latest route of the Israeli Segregation Wall Plan, published on the Israeli Ministry of Defense's website (April 30 2007), shows that the wall planned to be constructed on Qarawat Bani Hassan town's land in the south, will confiscate and isolate 1,391 dunums, equivalent to 15% of the town's total area, for Israeli settlement activities. The majority of lands planned to be isolated by the Wall includes agricultural areas, open spaces and Israeli settlements established on the town's land (See Table 14).

Table 14: Land Classification of the Isolated lands in Qarawat Bani Hassan Town – Salfit Governorate

No.	Land Classification	Area (in dunums)
1	Agricultural Areas	824
2	Open Spaces	226
3	Israeli Settlements	341
Total		1,391
Source: The Geo-informatics Department – ARIJ 2013		

Upon the completion of the Segregation Wall plan, the planned Wall will isolate thousands of dunums of Qarawat Bani Hassan town's land, mainly fertile agricultural lands filled with trees. This will threaten the future agricultural and economic situation of the Palestinian population in the region, and will include many Israeli settlements within the Wall area known as the "Ariel Finger"³ scheme. This will lead to the isolation of Qarawat Bani Hassan town from Salfit city and villages south and west of Salfit, as this plan aims to dismember Palestinian land, restricting the movement of the Palestinian population and confiscating and isolating more agricultural and non-agricultural lands for Israeli settlement purposes.

One should also note that Salfit Governorate villages are known for their fertile soil, their beautiful nature and the abundance of water and large trees, especially olive trees. This makes the region an important target for Israeli settlement activities, in addition to the being the second Governorate after Jerusalem in terms of land confiscation, wall and settlement construction. (ARIJ-UMD, 2012)

Israeli Military Orders Issued in Qarawat Bani Hassan

The Israeli Occupation Army has issued many military orders and notifications to confiscate lands or halt construction in Qarawat Bani Hassan:

- Israeli Military Order No. 11/11/T: Issued on January 16, 2012 and confiscates a total area of 21.3 dunums of lands in Qarawat Bani Hassan, Sarta and Haris for military purposes.
- On September 16, 2010, farmers of Qarawat Bani Hassan found papers and maps scattered between the stones in their agricultural lands. These papers were eviction notices issued by the Israeli occupation army which oblige farmers to vacate their land due to its location on Israeli determined 'nature reserves lands.' These Israeli orders commit land owners and farmers to

³ The 'Ariel finger' penetrates deep inside the northern part of the West Bank, on lands of Salfit Governorate, about 22 km east of the 1949 Armistice Line (Green Line), (ARIJ GIS, 2012). The Israeli updated Wall map of April, 2007 which was published on the [Israeli Ministry of Defense website](#) showed that the Wall around Ariel bloc will annex 21 Israeli settlements to Israel proper, at the same time, it will isolate more than 10 Palestinian communities from the center of life in Salfit city and the nearby Palestinian villages.

vacate their land and return it to its original state within 48 hours. It is important to note that the eviction notices held old issuance date; August 5 2010, which is a month before farmers received them, thus, Palestinians have lost their objection time to the Israeli court on these issued notifications.

- On December 12 2011, a Palestinian farmer in Qarawat Bani Hassan found a number of Israeli military orders lying on agricultural lands in the town. The Israeli orders hold the following numbers: 598, 597, 594, 595 and 596 and include the evacuation of 50 dunums of Palestinian land in the town, under the pretexts of being governmental lands. The notified lands are owned by each of citizens Yusif Sa'id Mir'ie, Samih Ibrahim 'Assi, Saber Mustafa Mir'ie, Khader Ismail Sallum and Nader Mustafa Mir'ie. The notified lands are located northwest Qarawat Bani Hassan, in the area known as 'Abu Ammar well'. The eviction orders gave landowners 45 days to review with the Israeli occupation authorities in 'Ofra' settlement. Also, an analysis of the Israeli military orders shows that more than 160 dunums of land in Qarawat Bani Hassan have been previously targeted by the Israeli occupation authorities, and that several years ago, the targeted lands were reclaimed and cultivated with olive trees.

Israeli Demolition Orders Targeting Homes & Establishments in Qarawat Bani Hassan Town

On February 9 2008, the Department of Construction and Organization of the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) distributed military notifications to demolish 4 industrial and residential facilities in Qarawat Bani Hassan under the pretext of non-licensed building due to its location in areas "C." The Israeli military orders gave owners of the threatened facilities until the 27th of June 2008 to object to the orders and start the licensing procedures, otherwise the facilities will be demolished. The following are names of facility owners threatened with demolition in the town: Hamad Salah Bashir Rayyan, Misbah Mustafa Ahmad Musleh, Ahmad Ibrahim 'Assi and Adnan Ibrahim Mustafa Rayyan. A petition against the demolition of the industrial and residential facilities at the Israeli Court is still pending.

On August 5 2010, the Department of Construction and Organization of the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) distributed orders to an under construction mosque and 14 houses in the town to stop construction under the pretext of unauthorized building due to its location within the area classified as "C." The orders gave owners of the notified facilities until the 2nd of September 2010 to initiate the licensing procedures through the Israeli Civil Administration in "Beit El" settlement. The notified facilities belong to 'Ezzat Yusif Saleh Rayyan, Mahmoud Ahmad Jacob Rayyan, 'Azmi 'Aziz Mohammad Mir'ie, 'Aziz Mohammad Dheeb Mir'ie, Ahmad Mohammad Dheeb Mir'ie, Ahmad Mohammad Ahmad Mir'ie, Yusif Ahmad Odeh Rayyan, Bassem Mohammad Ahmad Rayyan, 'Aziz Ismail Mir'ie, Sallum Muhammad Salim Mir'ie, Mahmoud Ahmad Nimer Abu 'Alya and Abdul Karim Ahmad Sallum Mir'ie. A petition at the Israeli Court is still pending regarding the threatened houses and Mosque.

On April 11 2010, the Israeli occupation army stopped construction of the agricultural road leading to the eastern region of Qarawat Bani Hassan. The total length of the targeted road is 1.3 km and was implemented with funding from the Palestinian National Authority to serve farmers in the town and to protect their agricultural land in the eastern region of the town from repeated settler attacks living in 'Havat Yair' outpost built on the territory of 'Izbat Abu Khalil west of Deir Istiya town.

Again on March 24, 2011, the Israeli occupation bulldozers razed Al Hurriya Road in the Qarawat Bani Hassan village. The Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) used 2 large bulldozers accompanied with a number of military jeeps in the destruction process. The destruction this time was much more extensive as Israeli bulldozers removed all of the asphalt over a distance of 1800 meters in addition to the total destruction of the basic infrastructure of the road to the degree that it cannot be rehabilitated.

Following the last razing process, Palestinians of Qarawat Bani Hassan again decided to rehabilitate the road in order to be able to access their agricultural lands in the eastern part of the village after the road was severely razed by the Israeli bulldozers. The road was partially rehabilitated and Palestinians of Qarawat Bani Hassan were able to access their lands within some months following the razing process. However, in December 2012, the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) escorted by the Israeli Occupation Army (IOA) raided the village and handed out Palestinian farmers of Qarawat Bani Hassan a military notification to again raze the road within two weeks from the issuance date of the military order, and ordered farmers not to carry out any work in their lands located along the targeted road. The road is still standing until the date of this report and a petition to the Israel court is still pending.

Israeli Demolitions Targeted Several Facilities in Qarawat Bani Hassan

On November 24 2010, the Israeli Civil Administration, accompanied by a number of Israeli bulldozers and under the protection of the Israeli occupation army forcers, raided the western side of Qarawat Bani Hassan; Bir ‘Ammar Area and Bir al Nwetif area. Here they commenced with wide destruction, including the destruction of Al Hurriya Road (literal translation of the name: the Freedom Road) in addition to a number of agricultural projects being implemented in the region. The demolition and sabotage process came under the pretext of working without a license issued by the Israeli Civil Administration, as the targeted area is located within the area classified as "C. "The first phase of the destruction involved Abu ‘Ammar Well area, where Israeli bulldozers destroyed a large number of agricultural facilities, with losses amounted to approx. 132,000 NIS⁴. Among those affected were citizens Saber Mustafa Abdullah Mir’ie (demolishing retaining walls and a greenhouse, sabotaging a water network and uprooting trees), Amin Ahmad Abd Sallum (demolishing 50m retaining walls), Khader Ismail Sallum (demolishing 70m retaining walls), Mohammad Omar Rayyan (demolishing 50km retaining walls and destroying an iron gate) with total losses worth 15,000 NIS, and Samih Ibrahim ‘Assi (demolishing 40km retaining walls).

The second phase of destruction targeted the Freedom Road which was implemented through funding from the Ministry of Finance of the Palestinian National Authority. The total costs of this road reached \$350,000 of excavation and settlement works. Israeli bulldozers destroyed the street and dug holes in it, approx. every 20 m along its entire length.

⁴ The destruction of Freedom Road and several agricultural structures in Qarawat Bani Hassan and Deir Istiya villages http://www.poica.org/editor/case_studies/view.php?recordID=2780

Development Plans and Projects

Implemented Projects

Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipal Council has implemented a couple of development projects in Qarawat Bani Hassan during the past five years (See Table 15).

Table 15: Implemented Development Plans and Projects in Qarawat Bani Hassan during the Last Five Years

Name of the Project	Type	Year	Donor
Paving internal roads	Infrastructure	2010	Municipal Fund
Supplying the town municipality with a hammer	Public Services	2012	Municipal Fund

Source: Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012

Proposed Projects

Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipal Council, in cooperation with the town's civil society organizations and town residents, hopes to implement several projects in the coming years. The project ideas were developed during the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) workshop conducted by ARIJ staff in the town. The projects are as follows, in order of priority from the viewpoints of the workshop participants:

1. Establishing a sewerage network (approx. 14 km).
2. Expanding the public water network (approx. 7 km).
3. Rehabilitating and constructing agricultural roads (approximately 10 km).
4. Constructing 10 additional classrooms in Qarawat Boys' Secondary and Qarawat Girls' Elementary Schools, paving their yards and providing them with sports yards and computer labs.
5. Establishing an integrated health center and providing it with equipment and medical staff (an appropriate building is available).
6. Establishing a park and a public garden.
7. Establishing about 30 rainwater harvesting cisterns and reclaiming more than 500 dunums of agricultural land.

Locality Development Priorities and Needs

Qarawat Bani Hassan suffers from a significant shortage of infrastructure and services. Table 16 shows the development priorities and needs in the town, according to the Municipal Council's perspective.

Table 16: Development Priorities and Needs in Qarawat Bani Hassan

No.	Sector	Strongly Needed	Needed	Not a Priority	Notes
Infrastructural Needs					
1	Opening and paving roads	*			13 km [^]
2	Rehabilitation of old water networks	*			2 km
3	Extending the water network to cover new built up areas	*			3 km
4	Constructing new water networks		*		1.5 km
5	Rehabilitation/ construction of new wells and/ or springs	*			3 springs
6	Construction of water reservoirs			*	
7	Construction of a sewage disposal network	*			15 km
8	Construction of a new electricity network			*	
9	Providing containers for solid waste collection	*			150 containers
10	Providing vehicles for collecting solid waste			*	
11	Providing a sanitary landfill	*			
Health Needs					
1	Building new clinics or health care centres	*			1 health clinic
2	Rehabilitation of old clinics or health care centres	*			expanding a health clinic
3	Purchasing medical equipment and tools	*			
Educational Needs					
1	Building new schools			*	
2	Rehabilitating old schools	*			boys secondary school
3	Purchasing new equipment for schools	*			all schools
Agriculture Needs					
1	Rehabilitating agricultural lands	*			75 dunums
2	Building rainwater harvesting cisterns	*			5 cisterns
3	Constructing livestock barracks	*			30 barracks
4	Provision of veterinary services	*			
5	Provision of seeds and hay for animals	*			600 tons per year
6	Construction of new greenhouses	*			10 greenhouses
7	Rehabilitation of greenhouses	*			2 greenhouses
8	Provision of field crops seeds	*			
9	Provision of plants and agricultural supplies	*			

[^] 1 km main roads, 5 km secondary roads and 7 km are agricultural roads

Source: Qarawat Bani Hassan Municipality, 2012

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