

against a 300-dunum area to the east of the village and owned by the villagers. The area was bulldozed for the purpose of building new roads. More than 200 olive and almond trees were uprooted at that time. The land was confiscated for yet another Jewish settlement on Arab land, to add to the group of settlements that were already established near the village.

At the beginning of 1986, the land of Yousef Mustafa Radi was vandalized. Fifteen olive trees were uprooted from his land during the night. Radi filed a complaint with the police in Ramallah. He accused the so-called Green Patrol of committing the crime.

Using force and violence against Arab residents is considered legal by the authorities. Their goal is to strip the Arabs of their homes and to empty the land. The Israeli Ministry of Agriculture that day in June, 1986, had recruited large army forces, border police, Green Patrols, workers, bulldozers and equipment—not for the sake of reclaiming the land for the benefit of its owners, but rather for the sake of perpetrating a savage aggression by uprooting thousands of olive trees from the lands of Al-Midya, a peaceful village located on the West Bank of the river Jordan along the pre-1967 borders between Israel and Jordan.

Facts of ownership

The Israeli Ministry untruthfully alleges that it uprooted the trees because the villagers planted the olive trees only four or five years ago on what they call state land. The well-known and certain fact is, however, different. Al-Midya residents have been planting their land since before 1948 to this day. The land, located to the East of Wadi Al-Mallaki within the West Bank, has been planted with olive trees which are tens and hundreds of years old. The authorities have uprooted them wrongfully and unjustly. Israel planted the land located to the West of the Al-Mallaki in 1948 and 1967. Until today, there are still some olive trees left in that area. The Israeli authorities also uprooted the trees from the plain located within Israeli borders which could be used for winter and summer agriculture.

Israeli allegations that the villagers of Al-Midya have planted state land with olive trees four or five years ago is quite untrue. The question is: if the trees are planted in state land, why then does the state uproot these trees? Why does it use all means of force and violence against peaceful residents if it really owns that land and observes the law as it alleges? How do the authorities explain the big difference between the Eastern part of Wadi Al-Mallaki where the village is located and the Western part after the elapse of forty years?

Woods were planted by Israel from the West to the Wadi, while in the East of the Wadi there are orchards of olive and other trees and fields used for winter and summer planting owned by the villagers of Al-Midya. Licensed houses were also built after the Israeli occupation of 1967. This proves that the area is part of the land which was occupied in 1967. What also proves that, is the existing maps which were issued when the Israeli-Jordanian truce was implemented.

After uprooting thousands of olive trees which belonged to 22 families in the village of Al-Midya (see the list of those who were affected), the villagers,