

that the uprooted olive trees were planted only four or five years before on the state land of Israel.

Trucks carrying the trunks were brought to the scene and unloaded before the police arrived. A short time later the police came and demanded that the demonstrators remove the trunks, but the demonstrators refused. An argument took place between the police and the representatives of Al-Midya. Farmer Yousef Mustafa Radi, age 81, passed out and was taken to the hospital for treatment. One man was served with papers to bring him to trial next November. He was charged with putting the olive trunks there without official permission from the municipality. The committee members tried to meet with the Israeli Minister of Agriculture in order to elaborate the case for him, but they never got an answer to their request. A few hours later the police decided to remove the trunks and brought trucks for that purpose. The trunks were taken to an unknown place despite the villagers' strong objection.

On Wednesday, June 29, the village representatives transferred again their olive tree trunks and put them in front of the Agriculture Minister's office in Tel Aviv, he being the person primarily responsible for their uprooting in Al-Midya and other Arab villages on the West Bank, the Galilee and the Naqab, and in every other place where Arab crops are subjected to vandalism.

It was midnight on the night of June 24 when a truck parked in front of the Minister's office to unload three big trunks which the occupation bulldozers had uprooted. On the following morning banners expressing indignation and protest covered a good part of the ministry entrance. Slogans demanded that the whole truth about the uprooting be disclosed. The Minister arrived at his office that morning without paying the least attention to what was going on around him. He looked as if his one intact eye had become as blind as the other. His deputy, Ibrahim Katzi Oz, also from the coalition party, stood for a moment and when he saw me among the people, he asked, "Aren't you shy?" I answered him, "why should I be shy? Did I commit a crime? The ones who should be shy are you who uprooted the fruitful trees." He said, "Why do you care? It is not your land nor are they your trees." I answered, "You have plundered my land in the past and there is no difference between my land and the land of Al-Midya villagers."

After the olive trees were uprooted, I had a chance to meet with one of the Green Patrol staff called, 'Officer Cohen.' He was the man who had handed Yousef Mustafa the unofficial order to uproot his trees by himself. I asked him where the trees were now replanted. He said that he did not know and they had simply handed them over to the Karen Kayemet. When I asked if this is the way that the Green Patrol deals with property that doesn't belong to them, his unbelievable justification was that they hadn't charged for the trees! (The Keren Kayemet is a quasi-official Zionist institution. Thus we see how one hand of authority fills its other hand by violating Arabs' rights and stealing from them their means of livelihood.)