

The Arabs, however, have refused all these deceptive offers. (37)

For six years after their eviction in 1925, the 130 families were forced to live in very bad conditions. Quoting one Sheikh in Wadi al-Hawareth, an editorial in one newspaper said:

Since they have been afflicted by the eviction of their lands, eleven children had died and many others contracted dysentery and other diseases.(38)

An eye witness to the bloody eviction of the cultivators was Lord Caradon, who in 1930 was appointed as an Assistant Director to the Northern District. According to him "...Of all the incidents in Palestine, the Wadi al-Hawareth one, when I think of it, reminds me of the injustice made to the Arabs when they were forced out of their land". "I still remember", Lord Caradon added, "how women were lying down on the threshing floor trying to prevent the settlers from cultivating their lands and how they were violently pulled up by the police and thrown out of the land." (39)

The case of Wadi al-Hawareth dragged in the courts until 1943 when finally a court order of eviction to all the remaining peasants was issued.

The Marj, Zeita and Wadi al-Hawareth were not isolated cases. They represented a general pattern of conduct used by, and on behalf of, the Zionist Organization of Palestine throughout the colonial period. However, unlike what some authors believe, the capitalist settler class or its representatives were not the main determining force in changing the socio-economic lives of the Palestinians. Indeed, their role was conditioned by legal and other forms of immunity provided by the colonial state. It was the colonial state which played the most decisive role in preparing the ground for the development of