

Chapter Seven

The Peasant Household and Wage Labour in Israel

It is clearly to the advantage of the mines that native labourers should be encouraged to return to their homes after the completion of the ordinary period of service. The maintenance of the system under which the mines are able to obtain unskilled labour at a rate less than ordinarily paid in industry depends upon this, for otherwise the subsidiary means of subsistence would disappear and the labourer would tend to become a permanent resident upon the Witwatersrand, with increased requirements...

Evidence to the Witwatersrand
Native Mine Wage Commission
(21/1944)/Wolpe (1972:434).

'I remained in the village [his own village] for about 15 days when a person from Kalkilia, Husein Abu Aba, a contractor, came and engaged 20 persons and me among them, to work in stone cutting near Kalkilia. I worked there for 20 days. On finishing the work I returned to Silet el Dahr. I stayed three days in the village when Amin Umrud of my family received a letter from Dib el Kaled of Tyre, a contractor, living in Haifa, asking him to come with 2 workmen to work in Haifa. I proceeded to Haifa where I worked for the said contractor in the drainage (sic) for about a month. I left then in order to return to my village and buy corn for the family.'

Abdul Rahim Abu Diyyak;
Police Interrogation Record
concerning involvement in
Guerrilla activities, May 2,
1938; Tegart Papers/Graham-
Brown (1980:80).

Changes in the character of the Palestinian village resulting from external work opportunities (in Israel, the Gulf, the Americas, and urban centres within the occupied territories) has been the subject of several recent studies.