

Settler incursion into Wadi Qana

8 December, 2011

The Mayor of Deir Istiya, Abu Nuwwab, told us today (Thur 8 Dec) that a group of settlers with dogs descended into Wadi Qana early this morning and left at around 11am. The Mayor was informed that the illegal settlers were engaged in a military exercise!

They entered several empty houses, searched them and then left the area. Exercises in military preparedness ...by these illegal West Bank residents started as a reaction to the Palestinian UN statehood bid, when weapons were distributed to the colonisers by the Israeli Army in anticipation of troubles.

Wadi Qana is a beautiful fertile and water-rich land belonging to Deir Istiyans, which has diminished in size significantly since the early 80s. This is due to the expansion of several illegal settlements which sprang up around it, including Imanu'el, Yaqir and Karnei Shamron. As a result 350 Palestinian residents were forced to leave their homes and move to Deir Istiya in 1986.

Israeli occupiers declared the Wadi a nature reserve, but sadly did not prevent sewage from the settlements seeping down the hills and polluting its numerous springs. The destruction of this beautiful Wadi is ongoing. Only in July this year, 450 olive trees were uprooted by the settlers, abetted by the Israeli Army, and a large area of Palestinian cultivated land was destroyed.

