

Village Visit: Izbeit at-Tabib

September 2012

M, an activist, met us in the village of Azzoun and drove us to 'Izbat at Tabib. He and MS, who lives in the village, gave us a profile of the village and their current problems with the Israeli government. The village is in Area C; sixty percent of the West Bank is in Area C.

The village was founded in 1922 and the present population is 250 people comprising of two extended families living in 45 households. There are also about 10 Bedouin families settled there. The settlement of Alfe Menashe can be seen from 'Izbat and the adjacent village of Isla. Within the settlement there is private land, planted with olives belonging to these villages and Azzoun. Last year IWPS supported MS and his family in his olive harvest as his trees are situated on land which forks between the old road and a settler road. He has lost 50 dunums of family land and 5 dunums of personally owned land. M, like other villagers, has private land within Alfe Menashe and he will have to acquire 3 permits to enable him to see his trees. He will also have to hire a Jewish security guard and a jeep to gain entry.

Current Problems

'Izbat built a school and clinic two years ago and on the 3rd September a demolition order was served on the building.

School under demolition orders

A house at the entry to the village was already been demolished on the 1st May. They have been given one month to get appeal documents together to bring to court. They have erected a protest tent in front of the school and every day the army enters the village but they do not have any problems from settlers.

The second problem is a proposed road bypass construction between An Nabi Elyas and a road gate near Azzoun. The purpose of this is to join the settler road so that it will avoid going through An Nabi Elyas. This will take land from the adjacent villages. Also planned are two barrier gates on a road between Azzoun and Kafr Thulth. This will take land from both towns and also isolate them from each other.

Resistance

On 1st October 'Izbat has organised an 'Information and Next Steps' meeting. Israelis, PA officials and internationals are invited. There will be informative talks followed by a visit to the proposed bypass.

MS., whose house was built by his grandfather, fears that the Israelis want the Palestinians to evacuate 'Izbat. As M. says 'they want to make life so hard for us that we will want to leave.

IWPS representatives found taking a current OCHA map of the area was really useful in matching land appropriation to Area C, Palestinian villages and the settlements.

Occupying the occupation! 'Izbat's protest tent.



Photo: Protest tent.



Photo: School under demolition orders.