

## Bruqin settler attack: mosque, car and bulldozer burned

*7 December (2011?)*

Residents of the Bruqin village in the Salfit district of the West Bank were woken in the early hours of this morning (Wednesday 7th December) by the sight of the main village mosque entrance burning and a private car and bulldozer engulfed in flames.

IWPS went to the village at around 7.30 this morning and first met a group of worried villagers gathered around the destroyed bulldozer.

'This is impossible', one of them said, 'this is what we have to live with all the time'.

They told IWPS that they did not see the settlers and could not say how many there were or what settlement they came from. The owner of the bulldozer, AS said that he had only purchased the bulldozer less than a week ago on credit and had not even started paying it off.

Looking deeply worried, AS said that the insurance would not cover this kind of 'accident' and that he did not know how he was going to be able to earn income and feed his family.

The sight of the main village mosque (Majid Ali Ibn Abu Talib) was even more shocking, the burnt shoe cabinets had charred the stairs black and the metal mosque doors were also visibly fire damaged. To the right of the door there was a spray painted inscription in Hebrew which the mosque keeper told us said 'The hero of Ariel'.

'Fortunately the mosque door was locked and the inside of the mosque was spared', said the keeper.

There was not much left to see of the burned car of MS. In the place where once the windshield was, there was a fire damaged copy of the owner's Qur'an, which he kept in the car.

MS was looking in disbelief at the inside of his completely scorched car. He is a father seven and also supports his elderly father.

'I depended on this car to get to work and back and now I am not sure what to do', he said. He was also certain that his insurance will not cover this kind of damage.

The village was visited by the Israeli occupation authorities who came to establish what happened - a villager said 'About 20 of them came at around six in the morning, soldiers and the police'.

There is not much hope in the village that the perpetrators will be punished. A few months ago 600 olive trees belonging to the Bruqin village were burned by the illegal settlers and so far no action was taken against any of them