

## Wadi Qana Urgent Appeal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

26 April, 2012

### **Israeli Occupation Forces demand evacuation of 1,400 Olive Trees in Wadi Qana, Salfit**

On 25 April, 2012 nine farmers of Deir Istiya, Salfit were given orders to uproot 1400 olive trees in the Wadi Qana agricultural area by May 1, 2012. This is the largest order for uprooting trees that the farmers of Wadi Qana have ever been given. Most of the trees were planted approximately 5 years ago on privately-owned Palestinian property. The orders, placed on retaining terraces, rocks and fences in the vicinity of the trees, state that if the farmers do not uproot their trees they will face punishment which could include large fines and imprisonment.

*Update:* On 27 April 2012 another farmer found same order in his grove for 600 trees to be uprooted, so now the total number of trees under threat is 2,000. As of early today, 17 May 2012, the orders have not been carried out. However, this does not mean that the trees are safe. The order is still in place and the Israeli Occupation Forces can carry it out at any time. The threat is still imminent.

### Wadi Qana Urgent Action

Here is a petition you can sign to let the Israeli government know you object to these 1400 trees being destroyed, along with a generic email you can send to your friends and family:

<http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/stop-uprooting-palestinian-trees>

Organizations and news websites are helping to spread the message and showing solidarity with the farmers of Deir Istiya/Wadi Qana:

[The Fairtrade Foundation](#) has expressed outrage and shock at the news that Israel has ordered nine Palestinian olive farmers of Deir Istiya, Salfit on the West Bank to uproot 1,400 olive trees in Wadi Qana area by 1 May 2012.

[Electronic Intifada](#): Israel claims that olive trees in Wadi Qana must be uprooted for a nature reserve, but the move is about controlling the land and destroying the Palestinian economy.

[Palestine Monitor: Deir Istiya's Farmers are Under Siege](#)

Deir Istiya, occupied West Bank—On Tuesday April 1 in the West Bank's fertile Qana Valley, residents of Deir Istiya and members of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) organized



a solidarity cleanup event for May Day. About 30 Palestinian and international volunteers gathered to aid Deir Istiya's farmers in picking up the masses of plastic bags so commonly strewn throughout the West Bank.

However, the May Day event was arranged for another, rather gloomy, reason. According to the International Women's Peace Service (IWPS), nine of Deir Istiya's farmers were given orders last week by the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA—the Israeli governing body operating in the occupied West Bank) to uproot 1,400 olive trees in the Qana Valley agricultural area. They were given by May 1st to do so.