

Village Visit: Kafr ad Dik 2011?

From Bruqin we travelled with MS (al-Mubadra) to the Kafr ad-Dik municipality and met with the acting mayor, FA. He said that the biggest problem for the village was also waste water from the settlements and noted also that the settlements pump water from the village well in the valley.

He told us that 80% of the village land has been stolen since 1980 (nearly 16,000 dunams altogether) and a message was sent to the municipality six months ago saying that more would be taken. The two settlements of Bruchin and Ale Zahav are now likely to be linked by a third settlement being built called Leyshim (meaning 'holy rock' in Hebrew). Leyshim has taken 700 dunams of the village's land and 300 houses are being built here. The land next to Leyshim (F's land) includes a Roman archeological area over 1500 years old. The problems of waste water from the settlements causing health concerns and attracting mosquitoes and snakes was also mentioned here.

F stressed the strategic importance of Salfit to Israel, noting that its location in the middle of the West Bank allows control of movement between north and south. Salfit has important water resources and natural gas was discovered in the area in recent years. The area is also very important for the Palestinian economy due to the concentration of olive trees in the region. There are 19 Palestinian villages in Salfit and 24 Israeli settlements. Kafr ad-Dik is 1000 years old. The first settlements were built in 1979. F suggested that the wall has been purposely left incomplete in many areas because they hope to take more land.

He also raised concern about the Israeli Government's plans to connect Ariel to Tel Aviv with a railway, a plan which would result in the theft of even more Palestinian land and would encourage more Israelis to move to the settlements.

“For the Palestinians here, their income comes from the olive trees, from the land. How will people live without the land?”