



WEST BANK DISENGAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT, 18-21 August 2005

1. Settler evacuation status

- As far as OCHA is informed, no one yet has voluntarily started to move out from Khomesh and Sanur settlements.
- Reports suggest that more settlers (several hundred) from other places have managed to infiltrate Khomesh and Sanur as well as Ganim and Kaddim over the weekend.
- According to official Israeli sources, the forced evacuation appears imminent and it has been announced that it would begin already Tuesday or Wednesday this week.

2. Incidents reported

- No Incidents have been reported between settlers and the Palestinian populations in the area.

3. Coordination

- OCHA remains the focal point for all coordination between the UN agencies on the ground. In addition, close co-operation with ICRC on the ground continues.
- The Emergency Room in Jenin Governorate is operational between 6am and 6pm. Three telephone lines have been established: 042 503 220/221/222. A fourth line has been established (all calls paid by Jenin Governorate): 1800 330 033.

4. External movements

- All movement into Israel proper for Palestinian workers and traders has been suspended, and will remain suspended until end of the disengagement.

5. Internal movements and closure

- The IDF intensified the closures Sunday morning after a quiet Saturday. This morning, the IDF closed Jit junction in all directions affecting movement between Qalqiliya, Tulkarm and Nablus. Consequently, no movement is allowed through Beit Iba checkpoint in Nablus, except from villagers from Deir Sharaf and Qusin and Nablus workers in the Quarry between Beit Iba checkpoint and Shave Shomeron.
- Most affected villages by the closures are Silat Adh Dhaher, Yabbad and Imreihan.
- UN vehicles and other international organisations have been allowed to travel on roads 60, 596 and 585 with prior coordination. No denials of access have been reported for UN staff on any of the prohibited roads.
- General movement on the alternative roads to the prohibited parts of roads 60 and 585 and 596 for the Palestinian populations has continued to be relatively smoothly, but slower due the poor conditions of the side roads. The closures involve the following parts: Road 60 from Shave Shomeron checkpoint to Arraba junction, Road 585 from Arraba junction to Reikan gate and from Arraba junction to Qaffin junction, road 596 from Yabad junction to Um ar Rihan gate, road 60 from Jalama checkpoint to Ganim and Kaddim settlements. All access roads to these parts of roads 60 and 585 and 596 are closed with either earthmounds and/or roadblocks. The closures of access roads also involves the villages that are located on roads 60 (Silat Adh Dhaher) and 585 (Imreihan).
- All entrances to Yabad are completely closed with roadblocks/earthmounds. The town is now completely isolated.

- Since 19 August, three checkpoints have been established around the village of Jaba (east of Sanur settlement across road 60) and the IDF is patrolling regularly inside the village. Movement in and out of the villages is therefore difficult.
- The Al Badhan road connecting Jenin with Nablus has been open and no traffic congestion has been experienced.
- The access road to Nablus from Asira Ash Shamaliya remains closed with an earthmound thereby forcing these villagers to take a detour via Al Badhan.
- In Silat Adh Dhaher, the residents in two of the three occupied houses been forced out by the IDF (a total of 21 persons). In the third occupied houses the residents (15 persons) have been allowed to stay in the basement.
- Entrance to Qaffin village remains closed with roadblocks as part of the entire closure of road 585 from Arraba junction. Villagers from Qaffin are therefore resorted to use alternative path to exit village.
- An earthmound has been put in place near Bal'a village in Tulkarm district, which makes it difficult for villagers from Silat Adh Dhaher to reach Tulkarm easily. Alternatively, these villagers must travel on a dirt road to Ajja and from there proceed to Kfar Rai and Illar before reaching Tulkarm town, a trip that all together is estimated to take 1½ hour.
- Local populations continue to experience movement difficulties on the 'humanitarian path' across Arraba junction due to poor coordination between the Israeli and Palestinian DCLs (*see also previous SitRep*). This 'humanitarian path' connects Jenin with Tulkarm.
- Another Palestinian house was occupied by the IDF on road 60 near Arraba junction. The family has until now been allowed to remain in the house.
- The Um ar Rihan gate is only open three times a day (7-8, 13-14, 17-18) forcing villagers from Um ar Rihan and Dhaher al Malih villages to take a detour through Dhaher al Abed gate in Tulkarm district.
- An earthmound has been put in place near Bal'a village in Tulkarm district, which makes it difficult for villagers from Silat Adh Dhaher to reach Tulkarm easily. Alternatively, these villagers must travel on a dirt road to Ajja and from there proceed to Kfar Rai and Illar before reaching Tulkarm town, a trip that all together is estimated to take 1½ hour.

6. Humanitarian issues

- No obvious humanitarian concerns have emerged as the preparedness for the disengagement enters its seventh day.
- Two contingency plans for small food distributions are under consideration by the UN for the villages of Imreikan in Jenin governorate and Shufa in Tulkarm governorate based on rapid needs assessments conducted by UNRWA over the past week.
- Since last Monday, only ten trucks every third have been allowed into Jenin from Israel proper with food commodities against approximately 40 trucks on a normal day. Consequently, Jenin city has started to experience shortages on some Israeli imported food commodities.
- Due to the closure of Silat Adh Dhaher, the municipality conducted on 19 August and internal food distribution to the most vulnerable families.
- On 18 August, UNRWA was forced to cancel a planned food distribution to Baarta enclave behind the Barrier in Jenin district because of denial of access.

7. Assessment

- There has been an increase of settler activity over the past week showing antipathy to the disengagement. A further increase in settler hostility in the West Bank can be expected as we are nearing the evacuation itself concurrently with the ongoing disengagement in Gaza Strip. It is therefore relevant to assume that evacuation in the West Bank will take place as quickly as possible and as soon as the circumstances permit it. Due to the volatile situation, it is likely that even International Organisations be disallowed to travel on the prohibition roads once the evacuations start regardless of prior coordination or not.
- Evacuation of Khomesh settlement through Tulkarm remains a viable contingency. The establishment of the two checkpoints at Jit junction and Shave Shomeron junction (towards Tulkarm) and the reinforcement of the checkpoint

at Enav junction are all steps that support this contingency. By separating the evacuation into two routes, the IDF will minimize the humanitarian impact of Palestinian localities (Silat adh Dhaher will not be affected), and also by scattering the settlers minimize the risk for confrontation and major concentrated outbreaks of violence.

Sources: UNRWA OSO, OCHA, Palestinian DCL, Israeli DCL, Emergency Room in Jenin Governorate.