

17th August 2010

Israel controls the aquifers and the amount of water available for Palestinians. The Israeli water company Mekorot, supported by the Civil Administration and the IDF, destroys dozens of wells, some of them ancient, as well as reservoirs used to collect rain water (also "illegal"). Hundreds of acres of agricultural land have been dried up as irrigation pipes have been pulled out. Fields of tomatoes, beans, eggplants and cucumbers die just before they are harvested. "I am watching my life dry up before my eyes", says Atta, whose plastic drip irrigation pipes are destroyed annually by the Civil Administration just before the harvest. "I had hoped to sell my crop for at least \$2000 before Ramadan, but all is gone."



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2011

All their connections were cut by Mekorot in 2011 and they have not been allowed to reconnect. The Civil Administration begins a concentrated campaign to pull out all the "illegal" irrigation pipes Atta and his neighbours used to water their crops, thus intentionally drying out the Baqa'a Valley.



Cut irrigation pipes

March 2013

Atta Jaber testifies before the UN Human Rights Council. Since then Atta has received written confirmation from an Israeli court that his home will not be demolished, but that his land is considered "state land" onto which Israel plans to extend the Kiryat Arba settlement. The new neighbourhood is to be called Nofei Hebron, the "Vistas of Hebron."



6th June - 12th July 2013

The Israeli Civil Administration and Jewish settlers from the Kiryat Arba settlement invaded the Jabers' property on a weekly basis. For three hours on Friday, 12 July, dozens of settlers led by Malachi Levinger, the son of the violent settlement pioneer Moshe Levinger and the mayor of Kiryat Arba, invaded the family's property, uprooted Atta's plants and replaced them with "Jewish" ones.



Atta's land is invaded weekly and crops destroyed



Atta Jaber comes from a clan that has farmed hundreds acres of land in Palestine for 700 years and has deeds to prove ownership of their land registered in Ottoman time. Atta's father inherited fourteen acres.

Their farm, located in the fertile Baqa'a Valley near Hebron, is next to the entrance to the illegal Jewish-only settlement of Kiryat Arba. Since 1989, the Jaber family has struggled to remain in their home and on their land. Israeli authorities and the Jewish settlers alike have tried to make their lives so difficult that they will leave, enabling settlers to take over their property. On 23rd February 2018, bulldozers sent by Israeli authorities razed the final 1.5 acres of land still farmed by Atta, leaving the family destitute.

Take action and help stop the injustice!

2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

November 2010

Over the years the Jaber family has met with many internationals through visits arranged by the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, the Christian Peacemakers Teams, and others. Atta, who speaks English and Hebrew as well as Arabic, articulately relates his family's experiences under occupation, patiently fields questions and takes groups on tours of his farm and the area.



2012

In 2012, the car of Atta's brother, Jawdi, is burned by settlers and his home barraged with stones to prevent him from saving it. Jawdi calls the Israeli police whose station is five minutes away in the Kiryat Araba settlement; they arrive three hours later, and then leave without investigating. It wasn't much of a car, but the battered 1979 Peugeot mini-

van was vital to the family. On rainy days Jawdi would take his kids to school, since normally they walk four miles over rocky mountain paths, often facing attacks by settlers. Jawdi also used the car to make frequent trips to the hospital with his ill 90-year-old mother. And Jawdi used his van to take his crops – tomatoes, cucumbers and grapes – to market in Hebron. The car, says Jawdi, was "the arms and legs of the family".

12th July 2015

Jewish settlers, escorted by the Israeli authorities, make their way up to the Jaber's home to uproot and destroy the family's only source of income, their vegetables and fruit. Atta's daughter filmed the incident using a camera from B'Tselem, an Israeli human rights organisation. At one point a settler carrying a machine gun and with young children in tow shouted to Atta's family: "You are not human beings!"



23rd February 2018

The Israeli Civil Administration claims the Jaber land is "Israeli state land" and sends bulldozers to destroy 150 fruit trees, including olives, figs, and almonds, along with grape vines and Atta's cisterns, resulting in \$50,000 of damage. Atta's family has suffered from every form of oppression under occupation and has responded with non-violent resistance. Indeed, just eking out a daily living from their tiny farm is resistance, as is keeping a roof over their heads, defending their home from settler attacks, and sustaining beatings and imprisonment by the Israeli army.

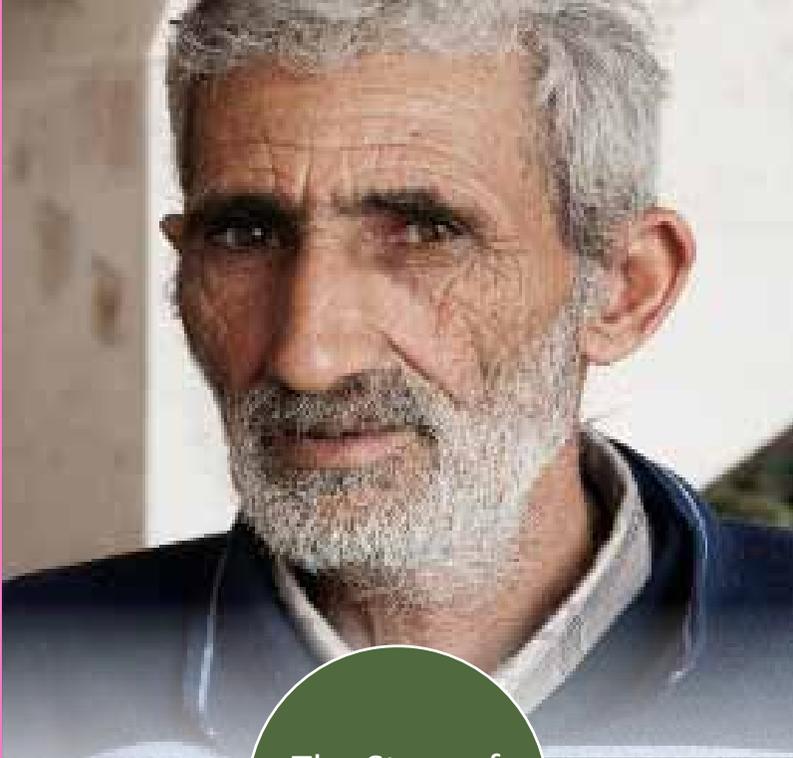
Still, it hurts, as you can see from the distress in this photograph taken after the farm's destruction.



Please act to demonstrate your solidarity with the Atta Jaber family by:

- Telling their story. Watch this five-minute film of Atta and then send it to your network. www.icahd.org/2016/04/04/atta-jabers-story/
- Lobbying your MP. This story puts a human face on the Occupation. Continue to urge your MP to write to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office demanding that Israel be called to account for its violations of the 4th Geneva Convention.
- Donating to the Atta Jaber family, via www.icahd.org

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The Story of Atta Jaber

A Timeline of the Israeli Oppression of One Palestinian Family

On 23rd February 2018, bulldozers sent by Israeli authorities razed the final 1.5 acres of land still farmed by Atta, leaving the family destitute.



The Jaber Family with Jeff Halper from ICAHD

700 years on this land

The Jaber Family have lived in the Baqa'a Valley of the West Bank, east of the city of Hebron, for the past 700 years. It is one of the most fertile areas of Palestine, filled with vineyards, fruit orchards and small farms. For generations Atta's family lived in a spacious cave behind their current home, which they still use for storage and cooking. They farmed 14 acres, their cisterns filled with winter rainwater irrigating their crops in the summer.

The past 700 years

Deeds to their Land

Although they have deeds going back to Ottoman times, with the start of Israel's Occupation of the West Bank in 1967, most of their land comes under the authority of the Israeli Custodian of Absentee Properties. The Israeli authorities appropriate all but 4 acres of their land to construct upon it the settlement of Givat Harsina, an extension of the larger Kiryat Arba settlement that extends all the way into Hebron. When, in 1981, Israel established the "Civil" Administration, its military government over the Occupied Territory, the Jaber's land was declared "state land." In 1985 the Givat Harsina neighbourhood of Kiryat Arba is established on the Jabers' land. Since then they have had to fight for every square inch.



Deeds shown above

A Timeline of the Israeli Oppression of One Palestinian Family

1989

The harassment begins when the family's grapes are sprayed by Jewish Israeli settlers with poison. They lose 300 grapevines in the attack.

1989

1997

The Civil Administration claims Atta had impinged on "state land." The family's farm is destroyed, and their crops uprooted.

Israel does not allow Palestinians to build new homes, having zoned most of the West Bank as "agricultural land" (although that does not prevent it from constructing homes for almost 800,000 settlers

1997

on the same land). The overcrowded conditions in their parents' home, filled with Atta's brothers and sisters and their own families, became intolerable. Like thousands of other Palestinian families driven to find decent accommodation, Atta and Rudeina built a small home for themselves on their land across the highway.



Israel confiscates Jaber's land for settlement construction

1997

19th September, 1998

The Civil Administration returns once again and **demolishes the Jaber's home for the second time.** This time the demolition was an extremely violent affair, with Rudeina being abused and Atta so severely injured that he had to go to Jordan for medical treatment. Not before being arrested, jailed and fined, however. Gideon Levy's reports on this in Ha'aretz (27 September 1998).

1998

January 2002

The home of Atta's brother Jawdi is demolished. At this time 17 people are crammed into the home of Atta's parents, located just across the road from his house.

The Israeli authorities begin massive land confiscation accompanied by additional settlement and road construction in the Baqa'a Valley. In addition to land already confiscated from the Jabers for the building of Road 60, the

2002

Israeli authorities designate an additional 180 metres on either side of the road as a "buffer zone" upon which Palestinians are forbidden to build or farm, land which they continue to own but which they cannot use.

Settler youth pelting the family with large stones from the high wall above Atta's father's house becomes a routine event. In one attack, Atta's 90-year-old father falls running from the settlers, shattering his leg. He never fully recovered.

2003



Atta's father with Jeff Halper



Atta's mother in despair

2003

1995

The family loses just under 2.5 acres of farmland to Road 60, the main Israeli highway through the West Bank which was routed through their property. In the same year the Jabers are allowed to connect to the water pipes that the Israeli company Mekorot ran through the valley to serve the settlements but Atta and the Palestinians were not allowed to continue using the "Israeli rainwater" that they collected in their cisterns and reservoirs.

1989



Atta and his brothers lost just under 2.5 acres of land for the highway

1991

1998

The Jaber home is demolished by the Israeli authorities for the first time for lack of a building permit, which Israel's Civil Administration refuses to issue to Palestinians. Atta had spent five years trying to obtain a permit to construct a home on land he owns. Out of desperation, he builds his home without a permit.

1996

ICAHD's association with the Jaber family begins when the family's demolished home was rebuilt with help of ICAHD and Christian Peacemaker Teams. It was demolished a second time the very next month. In that violent

1996

Before



The second home rebuilt after demolition on land they own

demolition Atta was severely injured and arrested. Having nowhere else to go, Atta insisted on rebuilding, and their home still stands.

1999

After



2001

December 2000

In December 2000, hundreds of settlers invade the Jabers' third home on a Friday night, living in it over the Sabbath. In the evening, after prayers, they smash the interior stonework and set fire to the furnishings. Although Israeli police and Civil Administration officials were present the whole time, they prevented the family and Israeli peace activists who came in solidarity from approaching their home. Later when the settlers return to their homes, none are ever arrested, despite video documentation of the attack.

2003

2007

In 2007, due to lack of water, the family attempted to build a modest reservoir for catching rainwater. It was demolished. Watch the BBC documentary www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-12345678

2004

2005

2006

2007