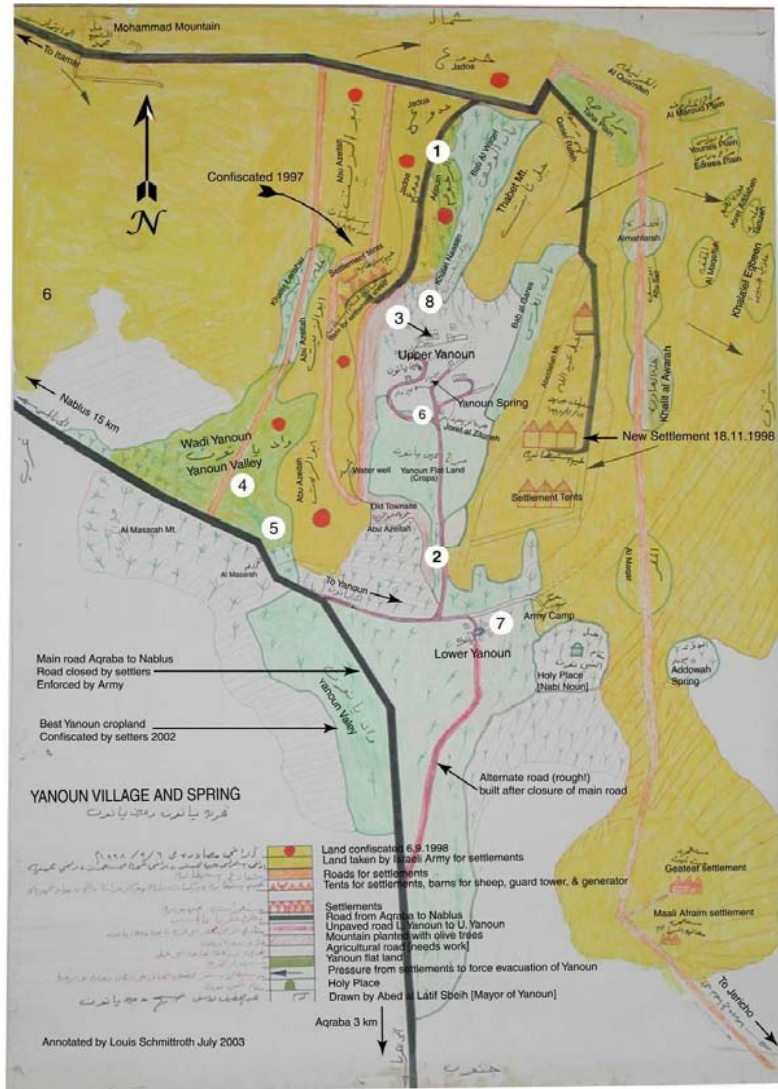


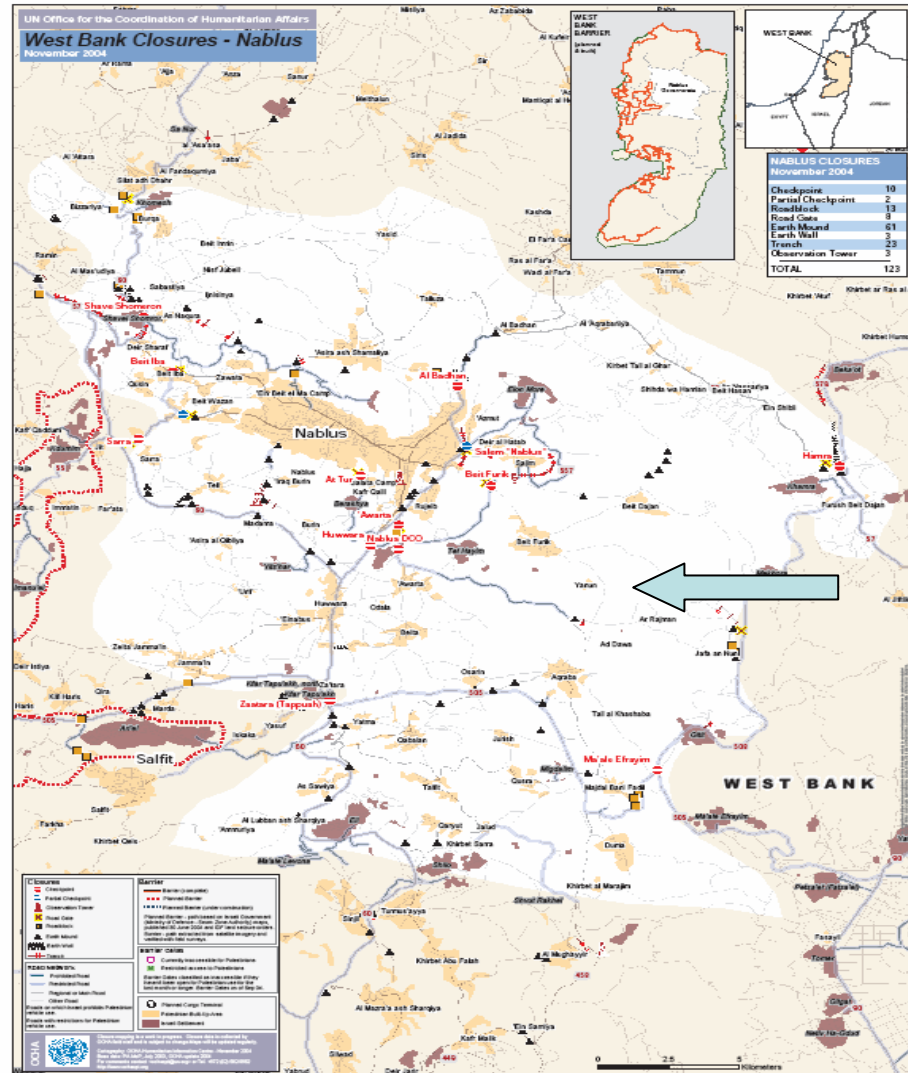


Yanun: a village under siege

Maps of Yanun



Map inside the village of Yanun



Map showing Yanun in relation to the West Bank

Overview of Yanun



Upper Yanun



Lower Yanun

- Yanun is a small Palestinian village in the Nablus district. It is 5 km by dirt road to the nearest village, Akraba.
- The village currently consists of Upper and Lower Yanun, which together house 16 families and approximately 90 people.
- The village is surrounded on all sides by outposts from the Itamar settlement, one of the most ideologically extreme Jewish settlements, known for its violence against Palestinians.

History of Settlers and Yanun



- If one looks closely one can see the settler buildings and watchtowers in the slides on the left. Very few settler houses can be seen from Yanun but that does not mean they are not there!
- Most of the buildings that one can see are large wooden sheds or farm buildings/warehouses, some dilapidated caravans, and watchtowers
- According to Yanun residents, about 40 settlers live in the outposts ringing their village. Each night a spotlight from one of the watchtowers beams down on the village, swooping around to see what is happening

Settlement Buildings



- In the picture on the left, one can see an arrow pointing to one of the big warehouse-like buildings. The arrow on the right points to a watchtower, one of many ringing the village
- The settlers are watching the village at all times and often have conducted attacks exactly at the moment the village is most vulnerable. Settlers also prevent the Palestinian farmers from farming or grazing their sheep on the hills belonging to the villagers. The settlers attack those seeking to access their land, and use Yanun for their own farming purposes.
- The settlers' perspective on the situation will be seen shortly

Village Infrastructure



Generator burned by settlers in 2002



Village well-water from here is used for agriculture as well as domestic needs



Villager taking homemade cheese and yogurt off to market



New UN generator

Some History and Resources



- Avri Ran, notorious for being the leader of the hilltop settlements, runs an organic, Shabbat labor-observant farm on land annexed to Itamar settlement and taken from the villagers of Yanun. In addition to beating up the Palestinian inhabitants, he has beaten up international and Israeli activists, including David Nir, who is active with Ta'ayush and Rabbis for Human Rights
- The village began to feel the settler presence in 1996. By October 2002, they had been harassed enough that the villagers began to leave. It was only due to the encouragement of Israeli and international activists that the Palestinian villagers returned to their homes in Yanun, and this was only with the promise that they would not be left alone with the settlers. A constant international presence began in Yanun
- This accompaniment was shared at first by International Women's Peace Service (IWPS), International Solidarity Movement (ISM) and others. Currently the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program for Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) has volunteers there at all times.
- Useful websites with stories about Yanoun over time:
- www.yanoun.org; www.eappi.org;
- http://www.geocities.com/stop_the_occupation/yanun.html;
- <http://taayush.tripod.com/new/yanun.html>

Quotes from Itamar's website

(<http://www.shechem.org/itamar/enew.html>)

- 95 percent of our community is located nowhere near the village of Yanoun. There is only one farm that is situated next to Yanoun, which is privately owned and has nothing to do with our settlement. If anyone is being threatened, the opposite is true. Itamar is under constant threat of the nearby Arab villages.
- Unlike our Arab neighbors, Jews, as a people, have not made a career out of victimhood, nor do they wish to. They have not become invested in hatred, despite the wrongs perpetrated against them, nor used their suffering as an excuse to commit unspeakably inhuman crimes. The harm that has befallen Arab civilians as a result of the conflict has been a result of Israel's being in a state of war, created by the Arabs.
- We are proud and content to live on Itamar. Our legitimate claim to the land is the Bible, which records that God gave the land of Israel to the Jewish people. However, we never attempted to drive anyone out, and have always lived in peace with our Arab neighbors when we were allowed to.
- Note that the map does not include the names of any Palestinian villages

