



BRUQIN Village Profile

Name of the Village : Bruqin

Names of persons doing the surveys: Barbara; Andjelka and Maxime; Beth and Nicole

Dates of the survey: March 9th, 2004; July 21st, 2008; January 4th, 2009

Who gave the information:

in 2004: Ghassan Sabra, mayor

Engineer Madya Barakat

in 2008: Ekremah M. Samara, mayor

1-Location of village

5 km west of Salfit (town)

30 km south of Nablus

30 km north of Ramallah

2-Current population, previous population. How many villagers are living outside Palestine?

4,000. There are around 3,000 former residents living outside Palestine.

3-Origins of the name. Any ancient sites or legends associated with the village?

It used to be on a camel-trading route. There are Roman ruins, three ancient pools to catch rainwater, and tombs.

There is a section of the village with houses around 300 years old.

4-Main forms of employment, currently and before intifada.

There is up to 60% unemployment. Many male residents are employed with the Palestinian Authority. People also work in agriculture, and in the settlements. Just a handful of people in Bruqin work in Israel (perhaps 10-15). Barqan and Ari'el settlement work requires a permit; the mayor doesn't know how many residents go there to work.

5-Any traditional industries apart from farming?

No.

6-Agriculture. What crops do they grow? Any animals? How has this changed over the years?

Grazing 60%, olive trees 20%, wheat, barley 20%. Bruqin residents have sheep, and cows (but not enough to sell), as well as chickens.

7-Form of government, e.g. village council, municipality. Appointed or elected. If elected, when were the last elections? If appointed, does each family have a representative?

Bruqin is a municipality. The last elections were held in 2005. Nine members were elected (7 men and 2 women). The next elections will be in 2009. The mayor says the 2005 elections were the first municipal elections Bruqin ever had. The last mayor began his term in 2003, and the one before that in 1996. Those mayors were appointed, not elected.

8-Political, religious and civic organizations e.g. mosques, women's organizations.

Three mosques, and a youth club. No other official organizations, but the two female councillors meet with women and girls in the village.

9-Names of the families living in the village in order of size.

Barakat, Sabra, Samara, Abdullah and Abdel Rahman and 7 smaller families. Bruqin has 12 families in total.

10-Services: Any schools or clinics? How many shops? Nearest hospital, nearest university.

There are three schools: a school for girls from Grade 1 to matriculation.; two schools for boys, one from Grade 1 to Grade 7, and one for Grades 8 to matriculation.

There is one government medical clinic, open from 8 am to 2 pm, staffed by a nurse, and open every day. The doctor comes three days a week.

The nearest hospital is in Salfit. Otherwise, residents travel to Ramallah or Nablus.

The nearest university is the Al-Quds Open University in Salfit. Students also go to An Najah (Nablus) university and Bir Zeit University and come home every week or two, but every day if attending university in Salfit. In the past students have sometimes stayed for an entire semester because of the problems travelling around and getting through Huwwara checkpoint (mayor is not certain that this is still the case).

11-Utilities: Does the village have electricity, running water? When did they receive these?

Other water sources. Any restrictions on their use?

Bruqin has had electricity since 1995. It has a piped water supply. Most houses have wells and others (around 5% of the houses) rely on trucked water that costs 15 shekels per cubic meter. There are tanks to collect rainwater. From August to November most families need to buy water to supplement their supply.

Bruqin and the neighbouring village, Kafr ad Dik, are allowed 280 cubic meters per day by Mekorot, the water utility company.

It is estimated that consumption is about 70 litres per person per day. The WHO minimum is 100 litres per person per day. The village received 30 cubic meters per family per year from the Red Cross in 2003.

At the beginning of 2004 a water connection was installed but the village is not yet hooked up to the main water supply, apparently because the Israeli water company Mekorot maintains that there is not enough water.

A project to bring piped water to the village was stopped in 1998 because the pipes needed to come through Area C, controlled by Israel.

The village still has a serious problem with sewage water from Ari'el and Barqan industrial settlement. It runs down the hills between the houses in Bruqin, the mayor says. The problems started in 1988 or 1989, affecting the health of residents (*ameeba* and *nishmania* and cancer and skin diseases).

Also the town of Salfit that had had the construction of a sewage treatment plant stopped by the Israelis, which contributed to this pollution problem.

12-Transportation: what transportation services exist, transportation and road closure problems.

There used to be a bus for students to take them to the university in Nablus. The cost was 5 shekels. Now there are no buses. Transportation is in shared taxis or private cars.

Previously, Bruqin residents could drive along the road next to Ari'el settlement to get to Salfit, about 8 to 9 km. Now they need to drive 15 km and it

is impossible in the rain when the dirt road turns to mud.

To reach Ramallah, they need to drive 34 km and go through two checkpoints. The journey takes about one hour.

13-Housing: Village plan, problems with building permits, and history of house demolitions.

There is limited space in which to develop the village: 581 dunums. Any land in Area C is not allowed by the Israelis to be developed.

There are many houses built before 1967 that are now in Area C. 70 houses are threatened with demolition either because they were built in Area C without permits, which are impossible to obtain, or because of the Wall. The Municipality received its two most recent demolition orders in 2007. 19 houses were demolished between 1988 and 2008 because of lack of permits. The two latest demolitions were carried out in 2006.

Houses destroyed in Bruqin in total (to January 4, 2009):

15 in total: 1988: 1, 1989: 3; 1990: 1; 1996: 1; 1998: 3; 2005: 1; 2006: 2; 3 in unknown years.

Seven (7) house demolition orders were delivered on October 29th, 2008. No dates were indicated for the demolitions. All seven homeowners have the same lawyer, from Palestinian Authority. He will prepare a court case.

14-Land: total original area, previous confiscations with areas and dates and purpose, current confiscations and how they heard about confiscations? current built up area, agricultural area remaining (best to include maps if possible).

Bruqin has 22,000 dunums of land in total. The village has lost around 6,000 dunums to the new road (Highway 5) and to Barqan and Bruchin. Around 150 dunums were taken in 1999 with no notice given. A military installation, with firing zone, and a new settlement called Bruchin were built on this land. A further 1,000 to 2,000 dunums are expected to be lost when the Wall is constructed to the north of the village along the planned route.

Bruqin has 1,478 dunums of land in Area B. To the north is Area C, and the army has given house demolition orders to the houses in this area.

It is hard at present for farmers to get to their land on the other side of **Road #446** (a settler road to the north of the village which Palestinians sometimes use, but only with Israeli permission). Sometimes it is possible to cross it with donkeys, but there can be problems when soldiers are there.

15-Settlements: when built, population? Settler roads? Any problems with settlers?

Ari'el settlement opened in 1978, Barqan (industrial) in 1981, Bruchin in 1999. All are to the north and northeast.

Sheep and shepherds have been beaten by armed settlers. If villagers go beyond the road to their land, they are threatened by the settlers. In mid-May 2004, settlers burned olive trees. Settlers have shot dead 10 sheep. In 2007 they came down into the village, threw rocks on houses, damaged cars in the streets, etc.

So far in 2008 there have been no settler attacks. However, settlers are implicated in setting wild pigs (or boars) onto the land at night, which roam near the houses. So far no one has been hospitalised as a result of being attacked by the wild pigs.

16-Past human rights violations: killings, serious injuries, house demolitions, admin detention by army and/or settlers.

In 2004, a 16-year-old was shot and wounded in the arm by an armed settler. Settlers have shot at two houses.

The army used to come every day, sometimes two to three times per day. They used to take residents' ID at the roadblock and make them wait for hours to get them back.

The soldiers used to throw sound bombs and tear gas at the schools, especially around exam time. For the last four months they have been coming once a week. They drive through the village to the water tower and stay there for couple of hours, taking pictures of the village. Nobody knows why they take photographs.

As of early January 2009 there were four men in Israeli prison who were arrested around July 2008 (one may be released January 4, 2009). Three villagers have been imprisoned for about 20 years. In the first six months of 2008 six men were put in prison: three students were arrested from their homes, and three PA employees at checkpoints.

Soldiers come into Bruqin most nights, the mayor says. Bruqin's water supply is on a hill, and soldiers enter and watch the village from there.

Archived HR Reports from IWPS:

HR report No. 206 – 26 July 2005 – house demolition

HR report No. 247 – 30 May 2006 – house demolition

HR report No. 273 – October 2006 – settler violence

17-History of resistance

Prior to first intifada

First intifada

Second intifada
Wall

18-Recent developments:

Wall: In 2006 the municipality received a map of the planned route of the wall. They were told by the soldiers that the wall will go 60 meters deep into the municipal land from the settler only road on the northern border of Bruqin. For the southern side they have not received any map yet. The construction of the wall has not started yet. They have no information whether agricultural gates are planned to be constructed in the wall. In 2007 the farmers were not permitted to go to their lands separated from the village by the settler only road. Following the intervention of the Red Cross the situation for the farmers improved somewhat.

If the Wall is completed along its proposed route, farmers will not be able to access their land nor residents travel easily to other villages in the area, because they'll be cut off. No houses will be placed on the wrong side of the Wall, however. No gates were shown on the map of the planned route delivered in 2007 (in Hebrew). Bruqin has a lawyer for many issues affecting it (planned route of Wall, house demolitions).

Lawyer: Abdullah Hamad: Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre. 02-627-2982.

What will be the loss of income from the Wall in shekels?

Villagers will need to sell their sheep because of the loss of grazing land. 20% of the land to be confiscated is planted with olive trees. Income loss is estimated to be more than 1 million shekels per year.

Olive harvest:

Bruqin needs about 19 to 20 days for the olive harvest. Bruqin has a lot of olive trees, and sometimes soldiers prevent harvesting. The mayor called the International Committee of the Red Cross last year (2008) to meet with farmers; an ICRC representative took concerns, took photos, and perhaps contacted the Israeli DCO. (Bruqin was not contacted by IWPS regarding the 2008 olive harvest, the mayor says.)

19-Contact numbers for village for the media:

Ekremah M. Samara, mayor, +972-9-251-21-71, ekremahs@yahoo.com

20-Any other relevant information.

The Municipality of Bruqin is in need of funding for the following urgent projects:

- infrastructure (water network connection, maintenance and expansion of electricity network, streets and roads paving/construction, public park)
- social affairs (sports clubs and stadiums, women's club, computer/internet centre)
- environment (sewage network)
- health (integrated health centre)
- education (new school building for girls, kindergarten)