

Farkha Village Survey

Name of Village: FARKHA

Name of person doing the survey: Eileen and Marie Jo

Date of Survey: November, the 27th, 2004

Who gave the information:

Taysir REZQALLAH, Head of the village council

Mohammad AL ASHQAR, living in the village, Head of the Peasants' Union for the district of Salfit

1. Location of village

2,5 km to the West side of Salfit, 34 km to Nablus, 30 km to Ramallah

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

1 500 inhabitants. Nobody has left because of the Intifada. 500 persons are outside Palestine (Jordan, Koweit, Gulf countries, Lebanon)

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

There are 2 stories about the name. Do not know which one is the good one.

A scientist was living in the village in the 19th century. His name was Abdell Rahman Al Farkhany.

Farkha means small chicken or small bird, in Arabic. The village is on the top of a hill and the birds use to lay their eggs there, specially the eagle .

The village was famous during the war between the Turkish and the British because it was located in a very high place and represented a very good defence site for the Turkish army.



4. Main forms of employment, currently and before intifada. Before, the majority of the workers use to go to Israël. Since the Intifada, agriculture is the only mean to make a living for the villagers.

5. Any traditional industries apart from farming?

There are small enterprises for metal works (blacksmith). But of local interest, only and household processing .

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

Olives, mainly. The other productions are not very important : stone fruits, abricots, grapes, figs, wheat, barley, lentils, chick peas. Some vegetables such as tomatoes, watermelon...

There are 750 square meters of green houses.

There are no recent changes. The production depends on the rain. There is very little irrigation (10 dunums).

There are cows, sheep, goats, rabbits, pigeons. But for family use only.

Donkeys and mules, for the work.

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?

The members of the village council are appointed by the families. There are 12 members. New election is coming soon.

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

The village council,

3 political parties are represented : Fatah, Herzb Asha'ab, Hamas

Agricultural Cooperative Society : most of the farmers are members. They have equipment to make olive oil.

Farmers' Union which depends on the PARC

Peasants' Union which is completely independent

2 mosques

Women committee for social work

Women center, depending on the PARC

Social services society : association which board is elected. The members pay an annual subscription and they have projects supported by an international NGO (Cooperative Organisation, Jerusalem). For example, they have supplied with 5 sheep some poor families.

A club for male teenagers and young adults but no financial support. Mainly for sports.

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

Rezqallah Zaideyeh

Damdoom Abu Ismaiel

Shebak Qanbaz

Hajjaj Badah

Al Ashqar Al Khateeh

Hannoon Shareef

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

2 Schools : one primary school for girls, a primary and secondary school for boys, but girls are with the boys at the secondary school. They are both public. One private kindergarten



One public clinic with a nurse every day, a doctor, 3 days a week. No midwife : women go to the hospital of Salfit or a midwife comes from Salfit.

Nearest hospital : Salfit

7 shops

University : 20 students. Most of them go to the Al Quds open university in Salfit. Others, go to Al Najah, in Nablus, to Bir Zeit, to Bethlehem or Abu Dis. Some of them are abroad.

11. Utilities: Does the village have electricity, running water? When did they receive these? Other water sources. Any restrictions on their use?

The village has electricity since 1979. They pay 45 agorots per KW, directly to Salfit.

The village has running water since this year: they pay to village council
Between 0 to 15 cubic meters.....5 Nis per cubic meter
15 to 30 cubic meters.....5,5 Nis per cubic meter
30 to 45 cubic meters.....6 Nis per cubic meter
over 45cubic meters.....6,5 Nis per cubic meter

Each house has a water tank for rain water.

The village has 3 springs. They only can use 1. The 2nd one, : Almattwy Spring, is polluted by the sewage from Ariel settlement and, now, by Salfit also. The 3rd one is too far.

Up to now, extra water was needed, in summer, and would be delivered by trucks.

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

There are public services and collective taxi. There are problems to go to Salfit if check points are set up. Which is not all the time. For the other places, it is the same as for the other villages.

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

Before, there were problems to get building permits because Israelis would not allow any building. But, since Oslo, the central part of the village is in Area A only and depends on the Palestinian Authority. Around, it is either B or C.

No house demolition

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).

The village has 6 500 dunums.

In 1999, they learned by the newspapers that 50 dunums could be confiscated. The owners went to their lands and showed their ownership documents. Nothing happened since.

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

No settlements on their land. No settlers roads.

But, they have had problems with the settlers. During the 1st intifada, the settlers tried to attack the village. They put check points with stones. Then they left.



16. Past human rights violations: killings, serious injuries, house demolitions, admin detention by army and/or settlers.
Killed : none by the army but one worker has been killed by a jewish colleague, in Burqan.
Injured : 10, by soldiers, with guns or rubber

bullets.

Administrative detention : 1, this year. Stayed 7 months in jail.

17-History of resistance

Prior to first intifada : Throwing stones

18-Recent developments:

Wall:

Should not be on their land. If the actual project is changed, 1000 dunums might be taken, on the west side of Salfit, at Almattwy valley. This land is agricultural with olive trees.

19. Contact numbers for village for the media:

Tayseer Rezqallah : Tel :

Mohammad Al Ashqar, : Tel : 0547 325 495 / 09 251 95 35

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20-Any other relevant information.

Main problem, the unemployment. 95 persons have lost their job since the beginning of the 2nd Intifada. Economical projects are hard to build up because of the situation.

One of the 2 schools is too small.

The roads in the village are in very bad condition.