

Haris Village Profile

Name of the village: Haris

Name of the persons doing the survey: Angie and Barbara;
Andjelka and Isabel

Dates of the survey: 2003 / 2004; 2008

Interview: Issa Souf , 20th April 2004

Husam Daoud, meeting 4-1-03

Nawaf Souf, May 14th, 2004

Umm and Abu Fadi, July 2, 2008

1. Location of village

Haris is in the Salfit district.

2. Population

There are approx 3700 people.

Previous population. How many villagers are living outside Palestine?

More than 200.

3. Origins of the name. Ancient sites, legends

The word "Haris" is an ancient Palestinian name. "Tal Haris" means hill of Haris. Legend says that the hill concealed a treasure and that the treasure's guardian was a man called Haris.

4. Main forms of employment, currently and before Intifada

Employment is predominantly agricultural, olives and wheat are the main crops. Before the intifada about 60% worked for the Israeli government mostly in the big industrial area of the Barqan settlement. Now only 30% work there. There are about 46 teachers in the village, 35 men and 11 women. Some people used to work in Ari'el but now nobody does.

5. Other traditional industries

None in the village of Haris. Many unemployed have now turned to shopkeeping.

6.Agriculture. Other crops, animals. How has this changed?

Before the current Intifada some other crops were grown, lentils e.g. But now there is virtually nothing else. 2 families have cows and sell milk and yogurt, 3 families have sheep and sell produces, 27 families have bees (produce honey for family use), 30 families were donated 3 sheep each (for family use).

7.Form of government

There is a village council, "but it is not effective because it does not have a budget." It is drawn from the six families in the village, each family elects two members. The head is chosen by the council. The current head is the Imam Sheikh Omar. The Council meets every Friday, after the maghreb prayer. There are two women on the Council.

8.Political, religious and civic organisations

There are 2 mosques, there is a new women's group "but it is not effective." There is a Fatah organisation for women. There is a small farmers' union. There is a "political club".
In 2008 there is no farmers' union anymore. Neither the Sport club is anymore active.

9.Families

Big families: Shamlauvi, Suf, Daoud, Sultan,
Smaller families: Herala, Atala, Kleb, Kasem

10.Services. When did they get electricity, running water? Any schools or clinics? How many shops? Nearest hospital, university?

Electricity and running water came to the village about 25 years ago.

There are 3 schools, one for boys, one for girls, and one for mixed classes (built by World Vision).

There is one Clinic, also built by World Vision, open daily and doctors visit twice a week. Medical Relief sends a doctor once every month.

Open University Salfit is the nearest university but students study also in Nablus and Bidiya (Open University).

There are numerous small shops run by villagers.

11.Utilities : Water sources, any restrictions

There is a big underground source in Salfit, which supports the settlements. The Israelis pay 1 shekel for 1 unit, Palestinians pay 3 shekels per unit. The

Israelis use 5 times more water.

12. Transportation

There are shared taxis and Palestinian buses. The buses run to Tulkarem and Nablus.

13. Housing, building permits, house demolitions

There has been no house demolition in this Intifada. There was a demolition in the previous Intifada, not because of a suicide bomb connection but because it had been built without a permit.

There has been much new building to accommodate growing families. Permits are impossible to obtain so every family feels vulnerable to the possibility of demolition.

In 2007 demolition orders for seven homes and a workshop have been delivered (no building permits). In March 2008 the workshop has been demolished.

14. Land

More information required here:

Land area pre-1948

1967

settlements : all of Barqan is on Haris land, some of Nofim and Revava.

Roads Highway 5 and 505

Utilities for electricity

other : the hill opposite Haris is land belonging to Haris but is no longer accessible because of settler activity

Land was confiscated for the Barqan and Ari'el settlements and some of Nofim and Revava. More than 2,000 olive trees have been cut down between 2001 and 2004. The youngest trees were 50 years old, some were said to be 2,500 years old.

Current land area, 7,200 dunams.

15. Settlements. When built, population, any settler roads

Ari'el overlooks the village. Built in 1978, it is the largest settlement in the West Bank. In 2001 the population was 16,000, in 2008 it's over 20,000 Barqan was built in 1981, in 2001 the population was 1,160, in 2008 it is approx. 1250.

Haris overlooks the main Tel Aviv Jerusalem road, the most strategic East West axis in the West Bank.

16. Human Rights Violations

3 teenagers were shot dead at the beginning of the Second Intifada. A young man who was shot with a "dum dum" or exploding bullet has been paralysed. A young man was killed April 29th, 2004.

50 villagers have been wounded with live bullets and 10 are in prison. There used to be constant harassment from army incursions, sound and light bombs and shooting, all designed to intimidate. Before the army watch tower was built end of 2005, during army incursions the soldiers would regularly occupy a house at the entrance of the village.

See IWPS Human Rights Reports

5,6,7,18,19,27,29,30,31,50,51,56,57,64,70,80,81,83,91,95,96,101,103,112, 115,117,118, 119,120, 135, 137, 142, 147, 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 156, 172, 207, 208, 212, 217, 227, 228, 237, 238, 246, 256, 257,266, 272, 281, 285, 312, 320, 342, 350.

IWPS Arrest reports 7,12,16,22

17.Recent developments:

Wall:

Will any land be confiscated? Yes

Did the villages receive notices of confiscation? Not yet

If so, how was this information conveyed to them?

Status once the wall is built:

Issues with permits, gates because of the wall:

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

How many shekels has the village earned from the land per year prior to the wall?

18.Contact numbers for village for the media:

Abu Rabia (Arabic and English) 09 251 6429, 0599 301 545

Issa Souf (Arabic and English) 09 251 6729, 0525 133022

Umm Fadi (Arabic and English) 0599 187 410