



## Village Profile

Name of Village: **Kafr ad Dik**

Name of person doing the survey: Marie Jo and Eileen

Date of Survey: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2004

Updated by Miriam and Ellen in August 2008

Updated by Beth and Nicole on January 5, 2009

Who gave the information: ..... Mr. Saedeq Turk,  
Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed,  
Mr. Abdaljalel Al-Turk  
Mr. Fayez Taha

Updated information from Jamal Abed Alhameed Al-Deek (mayor) and Amjad Mahmud Al-Deek (secretary) as well as Adib Yusef and Hala Al-Deek and Mr. Ahmad Adulhalim Zuhd (engineer)

### **1. Location of village**

Salfit is 17 Km north, Nablus is 33 Km north, Ramallah is 37 Km south.

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

Population is 5,500. A few hundred have left – mostly students – to Nablus and Ramallah. The census figure in 2005 was 5,800.

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

There are Roman ruins in the area dating from about 1,500 years ago.

The village itself is at least 500 years old. Salahdin came here with his army. Many of his soldiers were Turkish and they settled here, founding the village.

About 300 years ago the family of Ali Ahmed came from Saudi Arabia. There were two local families already here called Saloom and Naji.

The word 'kafr' means 'small village' and 'Dik' is the family name of the largest family in the village.

#### **4. Main forms of employment, currently and before intifada.**

Before the first intifada most people in Kafr ad Dik were farmers on their "before 1948 lands" – what is now Israel.

Before the second intifada about 1,000 families, i.e. 50% of the village population, were supported by wage earners working in Israel mostly doing manual work; in factories, as domestic workers, building, street cleaning etc. Some also worked as traders in Ramallah and Nablus. 20% of the population depended on agricultural work.

After a sharp increase in unemployment during the Second Intifada, by August 2008 the unemployment rate was estimated to be about 50%. A considerable number of people returned to work inside Israel, the majority of which does not have formal permits to do so. A smaller number of people also found employment inside the surrounding settlements, particularly in an iron factory in Ale Zahav. Others work for governmental institutions in the village itself as well as in Salfit, Ramallah and Nablus. The main sector of work is agricultural work.

#### **5. Any traditional industries apart from farming?**

One family has a concrete business in the village supplying concrete for building local houses.

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

The main crop is olives. Before the Intifada, they grew vegetables on land now taken by settlements or on land near settlements where settlers attack.

They are no longer able to take herds of sheep to their pasture for fear of attack.

There were three families who had over 700 sheep. Each family may now have a few animals such as cows, sheep and chickens, which are kept at home.

According to a study of the Palestinian Youth Union around 30% of the population still depends on agriculture.

#### **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 Village Council used to have representatives from the 6 major families Al-Diq, Ali-Ahmad, Naji, Saloom, Turk, Taha.  
By August 2008 a majority (90%) of the village reportedly supports Fatah.

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

There are four mosques.

Nominally there is a Club for Young Men, a Centre for Boys run by Fatah as well as a Sports Club.

There is a woman's group and the As Sabaya Women's Centre which used to receive financial support by UNIFEM. The centre is currently run by a small number of volunteers. It provides a computer lab, activities for children, organizes English lessons and lectures on for instance health related issues.

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

See 7

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

There are 4 public schools, 2 primary and 2 secondary, one of each for boys and girls. Three Nursery schools are privately run.

Universities are in Nablus (An Najah), Bir Zeit and Salfit.

The village has a clinic with a doctor visiting twice a week from 08.00 to 11.00 hrs. Additionally, there is a children's doctor employed by the Red Cross who periodically visits the clinic. There is a nurse every day; and a private midwife lives in the village.

The nearest hospital is in Salfit.

There are about 50 shops, all of them general stores.

#### **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 had an electricity supply since 2000.

There is no piped water supply. Houses have rain water tanks and can buy water from an Israeli tanker. However, these tanks do not provide enough for a household's needs.

A water supply project was started in 2001 to supply water to Kafr id Dik and Bruqin, funded by the Japanese Government, but was stopped by the Israelis. There is a spring in the valley which can be used for irrigation, but the Israelis will not allow the village to purify the water for drinking. Soldiers guard the old water

source which is now used by the settlements. None of their water is drinkable; all has to be boiled. This water is very expensive (3 shekels for 1 cubic metre?)

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

There is a bus to Salfit.

In 2006 a roadblock was established between Kafr ad Dik and Deir Ballut, turning a three-minute distance by car (10km) into a much longer journey (30km). By taxi the trip used to cost 10 shekels, but is now 70 shekels.

As in most other areas, the problems concerning transportation and accessibility have decreased compared to during and immediately after the Second Intifada. The ease of travel to other destinations, however, still depends on (more) temporary roadblocks and closures.

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

More than 1,000 trees have been uprooted from village land and sewage from nearby settlements is poisoning crops. Twenty houses received demolition orders during the second Intifada. Most have been the houses of those detained. Apparently none of them have been demolished to date.

In April 2008 11 houses, which are located close to the Ale Zahav settlement, and therefore to the proposed route of the Wall, received demolition orders. The families are in contact with a lawyer. The Israeli court refused to hear the complaint for four of the houses.

The village municipality is in Area B, but the outskirts and surrounding land are in Area C. Approximately 30 houses are in Area C and could be demolished.

## **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).**

Kafr ad Dik has 16,150 dunums of land in total.

According to the study of the Palestinian Youth Union, 6,000 dunums of Kafr ad Dik land was occupied in the aftermath of 1967. At least 2,000 of Kafr ad Dik's land has been taken for the settlements and for roads. 8,000 dunums can be considered to be high risk areas, i.e. and farmers rarely dare to work there. During and immediately after the Second Intifada there have been incidents of physical assaults of settlers against farmers in these areas.

The army sometimes gives permission for visits, but only for two or three people at a time and for limited periods. This is not enough to farm effectively.

Notification is sometimes by a piece of paper left on the land; some are offered token sums of money; some land is taken by military confiscation. Sometimes one or two dunums are bought legitimately and all of the surrounding land is just taken.

Twenty Villagers took their case to the Israeli court. The verdict was that as they no longer farmed the land, they did not own the land. However, the reason they did not farm was because they were attacked and shot if they went close.

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

Around 45-50% of Kafr ad Dik land was lost to both the settlements and settler roads.

The nearest settlement is called Ale Zahav and was started in 1982. According to Peace Now, its 2005 population was 684 people. The settlement is currently expanding its roads.

Pedu'el settlement was established in 1984; its population in 2005, according to Peace Now, was 1,113. There have been problems from settlers from Pedu'el. During the last olive harvest some settlers prevented farmers from harvesting near this settlement. (They have also reportedly prevented landowners from picking chamomile on their land!) Three hundred dunums of land near Pedu'el are affected in this way.

In 1990-1991 there was an illegal outpost of caravans near Kafr ad Dik (since dismantled.)

There is also the outpost of Bruchin, which was established in 1999, and constitutes the home of some 34 families.

A new, small outpost is also being established northwest of Pedu'el, which is taking 80% of its land from Kafr ad Dik and 20% from Deir Ballut.

Physical assaults by settlers have decreased but there are still severe problems. Apart from fearing the settlers' direct physical assaults, residents have reported settlers poisoning olive trees with chemicals. Dogs are also reportedly guarding Ale Zahav settlement (on east side, between two roads), and which have also attacked people, including the mayor's elderly mother in 2007.

Around 20 families from the village have lost their land to the settlements and now have access problems.

People also reported that they suffer from the impact of the settlement sewage and sewage water on their health; physicians employed at the Salfit Hospital

support this claim, describing an increased prevalence of cancer, liver and skin diseases in the area.

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

From the 1<sup>st</sup> uprising until now 15 residents were imprisoned, 12 of which were released by 2008.

Since 1987 eight people died, one of which was killed by a settler and the rest probably in incidents with the Israeli military.

Israeli soldiers broke bones in the present mayor's face with an M16 gun, in 1984. He was demonstrating with Israelis with peace, but soldiers put him into a jeep and attacked him.

**28 Sep 2008:** [Human Rights Report No. 378](#) Israeli army imposes curfew as settlers raid the village of Kafr ad Dik.

### **17- History of resistance**

Prior to first intifada:

The '1948 lands' were taken. Villagers protested.

First intifada:

Many resisted and many were taken. Five were killed.

Second intifada:

Two people from the village have been killed, one in the village and one in Qalqiliya. Demonstrations have been held, and there has been stone throwing.

**See IWPS Incident Report n° 90** (March 2004) : Soldiers invaded the village and opened fire, injuring one man and damaging several houses.

### **18-Recent developments:**

**Wall:** It is estimated that "the Wall will take 90% of our remaining land, if they do not moderate their plans". All of the land to the north and west of the village will be taken and 90% of their income will also be lost.

The map given by the IDF in 2007 to the municipality indicates 30 houses constructed in Area C, which means they could be demolished.

Supposedly 10 meter distance between wall and village houses, isolation of 20 houses.

Israel plans to continue construction of the Wall at the south side of the settler road, to the north of Kafr ad Dik, and about 100 meters from the road. More land

will be confiscated and residents will lose access to 150 dunums of other land as well. Israel is also planning a tunnel, with a checkpoint, under the settlement road to reach the olive groves on the other side, although the soldiers will easily be able to close the tunnel.

**When did the villages receive notices of confiscation?**

The municipality formally received the maps with the building plans in 2007.

**Status once the wall is built:**

Not known.

**Issues with permits, gates because of the wall:**

People with land inside the settlements have problems accessing and working their land. Access is restricted by a schedule set by the Israeli military.

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

As above.

**19. Contact numbers for village for the media:**

Jamal Abed Alhameed Al-Deek (mayor; doesn't speak English)  
Mr. Ahmad Adulhalim Zohod (engineer; speaks English): 0599-367-994;  
ah\_zohod@hotmail.com  
Kafr ad Dik municipality: 09251 1444  
Women's Center, Hala & Adib al-Deek: 09 2511 220

**20. Any other relevant information.**

As mentioned in #13, above, Kafr ad Dik, like many other villages in the area, suffers from the sewage of the surrounding settlements, especially that of the industrial settlement, Barqan.