

# Qira Village Profile



## **Location of village, and population.**

Location: 4 to 5 km north of Salfit. It used to be 6 km by road to Salfit, but the road has now been closed to Palestinians and they go via Yasouf, a trip of around 25 km.

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

Population: 900, of whom around 350 are 1948 refugees, but originally from Qira.

Around 300 live outside

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

Qira means generous and qir is a kind of tar used externally to treat sick camels.

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

Most people work in the construction industry. They used to work in Israel, but no longer. There are two stone cutting factories that employ about 20 people. Other stonecutters work in Jama'in.

Some people work in the settlements, others have government jobs.

Unemployment is around 20 to 30%

All work to help bring in the olive harvest.

**Any traditional industries apart from farming?**

See above.

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

Qira has olive trees and used to sell olive oil elsewhere. They grow wheat and have almonds, enough for their own use.

Any animals: sheep, goats. They used to have more sheep.

Many homes grow vegetables in their own gardens, especially after the intifada.

**Form of government e.g. village council, municipality. When elected.**

The prior council has been dismantled. Those appointed by the PA were not accepted by the village, some appointees resigned and others refused. The council was unworkable and so the system is being changed. Each family will elect one representative amongst themselves. There are 7 families and each family will send one representative to the council.

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

One old mosque and one new mosque. There is a women's club, a youth club, a village association, a popular committee that does charitable work, and a voluntary branch of the Red Crescent Society

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

Arabasi, Dalani, Ziadi, Awad, 'Abdu, Talib, Baker

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

1 mixed school, grades 1 to 10. Students then go to Kifl Haris. A former school is now the kindergarten.

There is no hospital. There is one private clinic that opens 3 nights per week.

The doctor lives in the village.

Nearest hospital is in Salfit.

The nearest university is the open university in Salfit. Students also go to Nablus and Bir Zeit.

Number of stores - 6 to 7

**Utilities: When did they get electricity, running water? Natural water sources. Any restrictions on their use?**

Electricity in 1991. Water 1994. Most houses have wells and the water is used for cleaning and the gardens.

They have water shortages in the summer. The Israelis cut off the water 5 days a week. The village has to use water from its reservoir.

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

There are no buses, few taxis, shared taxis.

About 8 months ago, the road to Jama'in was closed by the army and now villagers have to go by way of Haris to go anywhere.

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

West of the main street, villagers are not given permits to build by the Israelis. The site plan for the village is limited by Israel. No houses have been demolished.

**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).**

4,000 dunams. Qira does not have a lot of land and has not lost any land over the years.

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



There have been several settler attacks against the village, from Tapuach settlers.

In 1991 the settlers tried to burn down the mosque and ripped

up qu'rans.

*This photo shows Qira village with Ariel settlement in the background.*

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

In the first intifada three people were arrested. The villagers tried to prevent their arrests and one old man and 2 women were shot and injured. Altogether 20 people were arrested in the first intifada.

Three people have been arrested in the second intifada.

### **History of resistance**

No information available due to Israeli raid on Ops. Room in year 2000

### **Recent developments:**

#### **Wall:**

#### **Will any land be confiscated?**

It does not look as though Qira will lose land.

#### **Contact numbers for village for the media:**

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Tayseer Arabasi 053 768 101

Name of person doing the survey: Barbara

Date of Survey: May 14th, 2004