

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics released a Statistical Report about Israeli Settlements in the Palestinian Territory 2008

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) released the statistical report about the Israeli Settlements in the Palestinian Territory for the year 2008.

The report contains statistical data about population, social, economic, and geographic indicators of the Israeli Settlements. The report complies with PCBS work plan and is the outcome of the efforts of PCBS to produce a series of statistical reports that show the extent of Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. Such series of statistical reports aiming to produce required data on the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territory and to disclose the basic factors, which affect Palestinian Society.

According to 2008 data, the number of occupation sites in the West Bank totaled 440, 144 of which settlements, 96 were outposts inside the settlement boundaries, 109 were outposts outside the settlement boundaries, 43 occupation sites were classified as other, and 48 were military bases.

According to settlement distribution, the data shows that, most of them were in Jerusalem Governorate (26 settlements) and 16 of them were annexed by Israel. At the end of 2007, 38.3% was beyond the reach of Palestinians of the West Bank total area. The area of built-up land in different occupation sites reached 235,209 thousand square meters by the end of 2006.

Available data indicate that the number of settlers in the West Bank reached 500,670 settlers by the end of 2008; most of them live in Jerusalem Governorate (261,885 settlers) 198,458 of them in (J1), then Ramallah & Al-Bireh Governorate (87,059 settlers), then Bethlehem Governorate (54,111 settlers), then Salfit Governorate (30,824 settlers). While the minimum number of settlers, 1, 328 settlers are in Tubas Governorate.

The report shows that the number of settlers who live in Israeli Settlements in the Palestinian Territory increased by more than 40 times during the period 1972-2008. In comparison, the Jews in historical Palestine area and in other Arab Occupied Territories increased around 2 times during the same period.

The end of the year 2007 data indicate that the settlements in the West Bank were distributed into four strips; eastern strip includes 28 settlements, mountain strip includes 31 settlements, western hills strip includes 48 settlements, and the greater Jerusalem strip includes 37 settlements.