

## **Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics released a Statistical Report about Israeli Settlements in the Palestinian Territory 2003**

### **The number of settlers in the Palestinian Territory in 2003 reached 429,160**

Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics released a Statistical Report about Israeli Settlements in the Palestinian Territory for the year 2003.

The report contains statistical data about the population, the social, economic, and geographic indicators of the Israeli Settlements. In addition, the report complies with the plan of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) and it is the outcome of the efforts of the Bureau to produce a series of statistical reports on Israeli violations against Palestinian people. Such series of statistical reports are aimed at creating the needed data to provide information on the situation of the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territory and to show the basic characteristics and factors in which they have an effect on the Palestinian society

Data indicate that the number of settlers in the Palestinian Territory in 2003 reached 429,160 settlers including 421,565 in the West Bank and 7,595 in Gaza Strip. In demographic terms, the percentage of settlers in the Palestinian Territory, according to 2003 data equaled 10.3% of the total population of the Palestinian Territory with the highest percentage at Jerusalem Governorate at 36.8% (42.1% of J<sub>1</sub>-includes that part of Jerusalem, which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967), 31.4% in Salfit District, and 21.2% in Qalqiliya Governorate. The lowest percentage was in Gaza Governorate, Deir Al-Balah Governorate, Rafah Governorate, and North Gaza Governorate at 0.1%-0.6%.

According to 2003 data, the number of occupation sites in the Palestinian Territory totaled 342, including 316 in the West Bank and 26 in Gaza Strip. The total number of formal settlements in the Palestinian Territory totaled 172 in 2003, including 155 in the West Bank and 17 in Gaza Strip.

In 2003, the number of urban settlements in the "Remaining West Bank" totaled 23 distributed among population sectors as follows: 11 settlements with a population of 2,000-3,999 settlers; 3 settlements with a population of 4,000-5,999; 3 settlements with a population of 6,000-7,999; the rest lived in settlements of a population of 10,000-27,999 settlers. In Gaza Strip, on the other hand, there was one urban settlement with a population of 2,000-3,999 settlers.

The settlers' population of rural settlements is distributed among 126 settlements, including 50 religious settlements, 40 secular settlements, and 14 mixed settlements.

### **Notes**

- **J<sub>1</sub>** Includes that part of Jerusalem, which was annexed forcefully by Israel following its occupation of the West Bank in 1967.
- **Formal settlement:** A settlement, which is considered by the Israeli occupation as legal settlement and meets locality conditions.