

# From Al-Araqib to Susiya

## Forced Displacement of Palestinians on Both Sides of the Green Line

Forced displacement refers to 'involuntary removal of persons from their homes or land, directly or indirectly attributable to the State' (UN OHCHR). International law protects all persons from being arbitrarily displaced from his or her home; however, where the law should safeguard Palestinians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Israel has suspended their rights. Effective protection of the rights of Palestinians demands awareness of the similarities in Israel's policy of forced displacement against them on both sides of the Green Line.

### **At a Glance:** Forced displacement in the Naqab and in Area C today

- In the Naqab (Negev) desert in southern Israel, **2,200** Palestinian Bedouin homes were demolished and over **14,000** people were displaced from 2008 to 2011.
- Under the government-approved Praver Plan, up to **70,000** Bedouin citizens of Israel would be forcibly displaced, leaving the Bedouin, who make up 30% of the Naqab's population, confined to less than 1% of the Naqab's total area.
- In 'Area C' of the OPT, **1,000** Palestinian structures were demolished and over **2,200** people were forcibly displaced from 2008 to 2010.
- **5,000** residents of 38 Palestinian communities in Area C located in a recently-designated military firing zone are facing forced displacement.

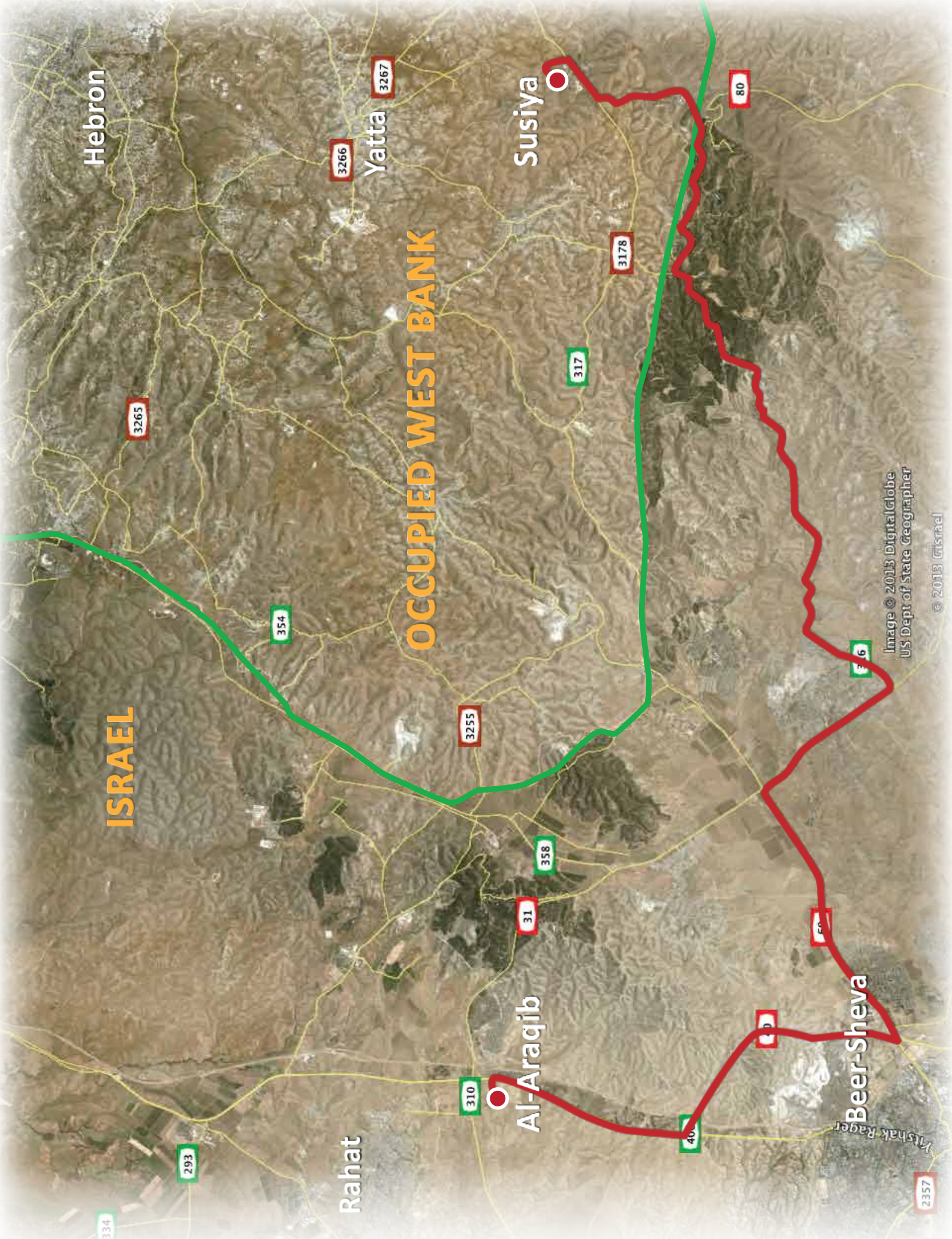
### **On the Ground:** Israel's methods of forced displacement in Al-Araqib and Susiya

**Al-Araqib** is a historic Palestinian Bedouin village located in the Naqab, whose 300 residents are citizens of Israel. The state is seeking to forcibly displace the villagers by:

- **Land Confiscation and Forestation:** The land of Al-Araqib, like 66% of the Naqab, has been confiscated for "public purposes" including Jewish National Fund forestation projects.
- **Denying Recognition:** Israel has stripped the villagers of land ownership rights, and deemed Al-Araqib "illegal" and "unrecognized".
- **Demolishing Homes:** Israel has demolished the homes in Al-Araqib 49 times since July 2010. After each demolition, the families rebuild.
- **Destroying Livelihoods:** The state began aerially spraying the crops with ROUNDUP in 2003; the practice was deemed illegal so the state uproots the crops every spring.
- **Denying Basic Services:** Having declared the village illegal, the state can justify denying the villagers access to such basic services as water, electricity, schools and health care.

**Susiya** is a Palestinian village in the South Hebron Hills, in Area C of the OPT, whose 350 residents live under Israeli Occupation. The state is seeking to forcibly displace the villagers by:

- **Land Confiscation and Settlement Expansion:** The land of Susiya, like 70% of Area C, has been confiscated for non-Palestinian use. Here the land has been allocated to the Jewish settlement of Suseya.
- **Demolishing Homes:** In 1986, Israel declared Susiya an archaeological site, displaced its people and demolished their homes. After multiple subsequent demolitions, today 70% of the structures in the village are again under demolition orders.
- **Destroying Livelihoods:** The Israeli military prevents the villagers from entering and cultivating large areas of their land because of its proximity to the settlements.
- **Denying Basic Services:** Since the occupation of the West Bank in 1967, the state has failed to connect the village of Susiya to any basic service such as water or electricity.
- **Denying Security:** Jewish settlers frequently carry out acts of physical and psychological violence against the villagers and their property, for which they enjoy effective impunity.



**ISRAEL**

**OCCUPIED WEST BANK**

Hebron

Yatta

Susiya

Rahat

Al-Araqib

Beer-Sheva

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