

Jamma'in Village Profile

Name of Village: Jamma'in

Name of person doing the survey: Miriam, Ellen, Andjelka

Date of Survey: 20th August 2008

Who gave the information: Izzat Zitawi, mayor

1. Location of village

16 km south of Nablus
40 km north of Ramallah
6 km NW of Salfit

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

6500 inhabitants, in addition to it approximately 2000 living/working abroad (mostly in Jordan). 2,000 UN-recognized refugees live in Jamma'in (most of them left their homes in 1948 and returned as refugees).

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

Jamma'in means "collection", in Arabic. Throughout the centuries, Jamma'in has been known for its collection of scientific knowledge; later, of an army. There are ruins of several houses over 10 centuries old; the local mosque was built in the 1500's.

It is being reported that Salah al-Din stayed with his army in Jamma'in. The Bani Qudama family, now Salahea ('good persons') of Damascus, left Jamma'in several centuries ago to study in Damascus. During the Ottoman period, the Quasim family from Jamma'in ruled 48 nearby villages. The Quasim family is still living in Jamma'in; some of them live in Haris now, too.

4. Main forms of employment, currently and before Intifada

Before the Intifada:

Majority of people were farmers, both raising animals and farming the land; Jamma'in's stonecutting industry was strong; Many people worked in the settlements.

Now:

The majority still works in agriculture or stonecutting. Yet the stonecutting industry has weakened because the cost of electricity has increased and the

export rate for the stone, not only to Israel but also to other Arab countries, has decreased.

Farmers predominantly grow olives, because the cost of animal food has increased (1-2 families still raise sheep and cows, and produce small quantities of milk and cheese);

Some people work in the government in Ramallah;

Fewer people work in the settlements than before the Intifada

10% of Jamma'in's labor force is unemployed.

5. Any traditional industries apart from farming?

Stonecutting.

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

Olives are the main crop. It is expensive to rear animals, there are only two or three sheep/cow farms in the village. Products (milk, yogurt, cheese) are sold in the village.

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 was elected in May of 2005.

Two women, nine men;

Seven hamas, four fatah.

Three weeks before our interview, the six male Hamas representatives on Jamma'in's council were imprisoned. Five representatives were released after two days; the mayor himself was released only five days before our interview.

As in most other villages, he explained to us, people in Jamma'in vote for the individuals and representatives of families that they want to see in government; they do not care as much about the parties that the people represent.

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

There are 2 mosques in the village, one of which is a very old one (built in the 15th century).

There is an active women's organization, affiliated to The Palestinian National Initiative (Al Mubadara) they made a computer library and, as a joint project with the municipality, they have raised the funds for a book library and are currently looking for space.

There further is a religious charity whose work was being complicated due to the Hamas-Fatah divide.

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

Maj Ali, Zitawi. The Zitawis came to Jamma'in from the neighbouring village of Zeita some 300 years ago (that's how the family got the name).

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

Education

Jamma'in has five schools: one co-ed (2 classes); and two each for girls and boys. After their Tauwjihi students go to universities such as An Najah, Nablus.

The village has a long tradition in education. Till now compared to other villages, fewer students in Jamma'in leave school before finishing the Tauwjihi and many continue through university. A considerable number of men and women over 65 years old in Jamma'in are literate.

Health Care

Jamma'in's governmental clinic was built in 1970. A new building for the clinic is currently under construction. The governmental clinic is open for two hours each two days a week. The doctors are from Nablus.

Recently also a new medical centre was opened.

According to the mayor there is a scarcity of governmental funds for doctors and nurses.

There are 3-4 private doctors in Jamma'in.

In emergency cases people tend to go to Nablus instead of going to Salfit.

11. Utilities: Does the village have electricity, running water? When did they receive these? Other water sources. Any restrictions on their use?

Water lines were connected to Jamma'in in 1996; today, all houses are connected and there is enough water. As in other villages, water is bought through the PA from the Israeli company Makorot.

Jamma'in was connected to electricity in 1998; no problems reported.

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

The checkpoints of Za'tara and Huwara cause problems for Jamma'in villagers.

The gate between Jamma'in and the main road has been closed for nearly a year now. During 2007, for approximately six months ending in August, the gate was open. This gate closure causes huge problems for Jamma'in because now it is very difficult to move and/or to access the lands south of the village. The farming roads are also closed. It is no longer possible to move tractors or cars to the farmland.

Most of Jamma'in's farm land is on the other side of the road closure on the

southern side. Jamma'in's land stretches south until Marda, Yasuf, and Kfar Tappuah

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

Jamma'in is largely located in the B zone. The C zone is 2km west of Jamma'in. Today, there are only trees in the C zone. Since 1970, six houses have been demolished. In 1973, four houses were demolished; in 2003, two more were. According to our informant all six were demolished as a form of punishment for resisting the Occupation.

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).

Jamma'in has 22,000 dunums of land, 3,000 of which are municipal or built-up area.

Quite uniquely, Jamma'in did not lose any land to a settlement or to the Wall. However, Jamma'in lost a considerable amount of land to Highway No. 5 which was built in the late 70s.

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

Jamma'in land borders with the settlements of Ari'el, established 1978, population as of 2005: 16,520, social profile: mixed, and Kfar Tappuah, established 1978, population as of 2005: 648, social profile: religious (Source: Peace Now).

Azat Zitawi reports that some farmers do not visit their lands when unaccompanied by peace activists. Every year, settlers attack Jamma'in villagers. The harvest begins in the fall after a voluntary peace team arrives to help in Jamma'in. Settlers tend to burn Jamma'in farmer's fields, threaten them with weapons, steal their crops, and use their grazing land.

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

Villagers from Jamma'in participated in both Intifadas.

Today, 10 people are in Israeli prison, 6 with life sentences.

Six people were killed since 1987.

In 1990, soldiers shot into Jamma'in's elementary school. Parents rushed to the site to stop the soldiers; during this intervention one person was killed.

Today, the army does not invade the village as much as in the past. The stone throwing at especially the settler road has decreased.

17. Recent developments:

Wall:

There planned route of the Wall (as displayed by OCHA April 2008) will not affect the land of Jamma'in.

18. Contact numbers for village for the media:

Municipality 09-2-596001

Mayor Izzat Zitawi 059 8930222

Jammaien2005@yahoo.com

19. Any other relevant information:

Approximately every two months, the UN distributes flour and oil to the 2,000 formal refugees of Jamma'in.