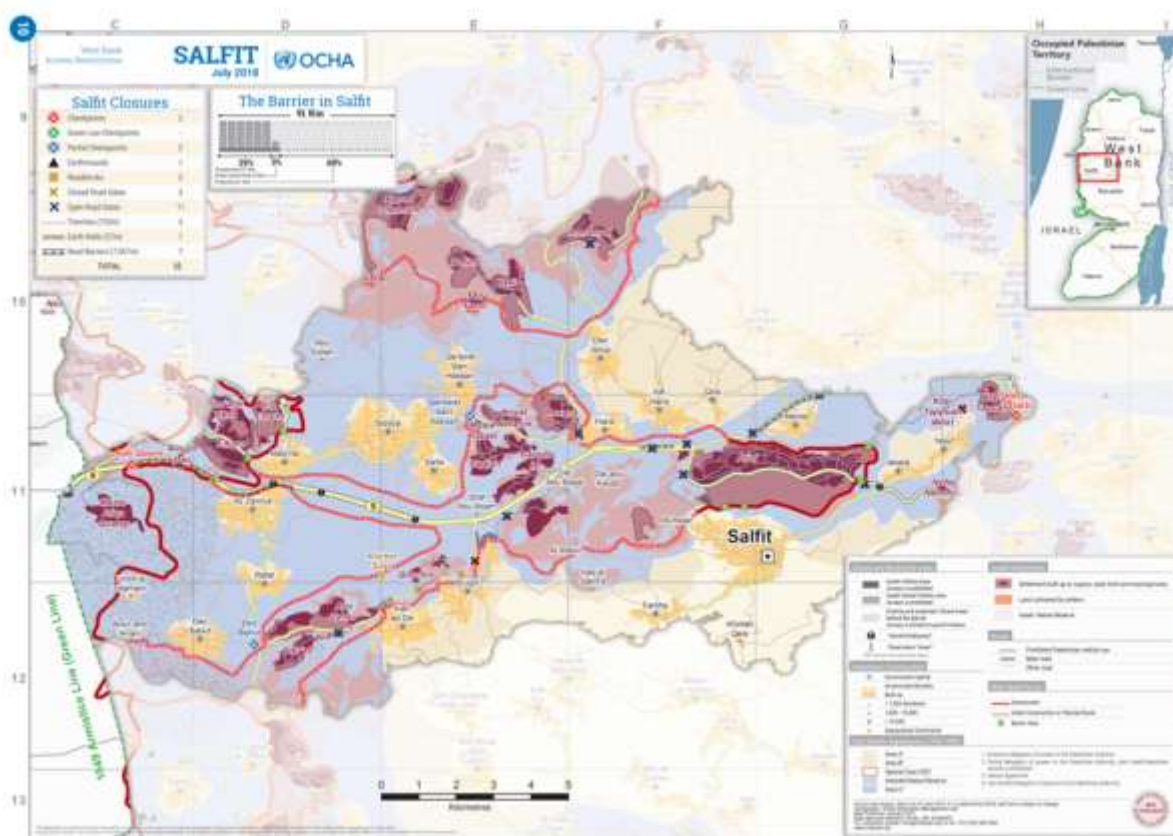




## Blanket Demolition Orders Issued in Salfit, Despite “Moratorium”

**April 28, 2020:** The town of Qarawat Bani Hassan (*land designation; 843 dunams as “B” and the remaining 8,600 dunams as “C”*), is situated in northern Salfit amidst three major settlement blocks (*i.e. to the south-west; Sha’arei Tikva, Ekana, Etz Efram, to the south; Ariel, Maale Yesrael, Burkan, Kiryat Netafim, Revava, Burqan, and to the north; Karnei Shomron, Hofim, Yair Farm, Yakir, and Immanuel*) and their associated bypass roads and fencing which have collectively ensured the contiguity of the settlements with each other and Israel at the expense of bisecting the governorate of Salfit and severing its towns and village from each other and their farmlands. Towards facilitating the expansion of more Salfit lands for settlement use, 22 demolition orders (involving 12 housing structures, 6 agricultural facilities, 3 water cisterns, 1 playground fence, all new and under different stages of construction) were issued on April 26, 2020 in Qarawat Bani Hassan, Salfit with the first hearing/objection session scheduled for June 2, 2020. It should be noted that residents of the town sited security personnel from an adjacent settlement in the vicinity days prior to the issuance of the demolition orders (evidence of settlement-ICA colluding in demolition).



JLAC promptly coordinated a group consultation in the village the following day (attended by 22 rights holders, the Mayor of the municipality, and the Governor of Salfit), during which JLAC undertook need powers of attorney, explained legal mechanisms in protecting the structures, and needed documentation therein. Prior to arrival, the Mayor of the municipality and his staff organized the hall and sat the attendees at a distance to each other, signing in one at a time, and later approaching JLAC attorney and paralegal individually. Although JLAC staff wore protective masks and gloves, the rights holders and municipal staff and governor did not (although the town had faced extensive lockdowns earlier due to having one reported case of COVID 19 whom has since recovered).

In the meantime, ensuring proper case development in preparing for the scheduled June 2<sup>nd</sup> session requires that the Israeli Civil Administration is operable as well as Palestinians official departments (as to acquire and submit needed forms and property documents). JLAC will assess how best to proceed if closures persist, with submission of time extensions or going before relevant Israeli courts then both being viable options.