

Israel to Remove Palestinian Village's Sole Water Pipe

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Palestinians living near the village of Duma in the occupied West Bank district of Nablus have been told that the sole water pipeline servicing the area will be removed by Israeli occupation forces as it was deemed "illegal".

Palestinian news agency *Wafa* reported that Ghassan Daghlas, a Palestinian official who monitors Israeli settlement activity in the northern occupied West Bank, said that Israeli forces had informed the residents of their intention to remove and destroy the pipeline.

Daghlas said that the pipeline is the sole water source for the area. According to *Wafa*, 14 Palestinian families live in the area and depend on the pipeline.

A spokesperson for COGAT, the agency responsible for implementing Israeli policies in the occupied Palestinian territory, told *Ma'an* that the pipe was installed in the area as "part of an attempt to build an illegal residential complex at an archaeological site where construction is prohibited."

However, rights groups have long reported that Israel's control of water resources in the occupied West Bank has led to water shortages in Palestinian communities which force Palestinians to buy water directly from Israel. Palestinians are prevented from digging their own wells or other projects to enhance water access.

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