

Non-aggression initiatives between Palestinian and Jewish localities in 1947 - 1948

These list and texts are from the movie *Civil Alliances - Palestine 47-48* by Ariella Azoulay. In the movie there are more than 100 cases of non-aggression initiatives between Palestinian and Jewish localities. On the map we marked 45 of them where we found a clear case of reciprocity. We added one more of al-'Abisiyya (Yahudiyya) / Petakh Tikva and Ramat Gan.

הרשימה והטקסטים להלן הם מתוך הסרט של אריאלה אזולאי:

Civil Alliances – Palestine, 47-48

בסרט מופיעים למעלה ממאה מקרים של הסכמים הדדיים לאי התקפה אך במפה הותרנו 45 שיש בהם הדדיות ברורה. הוספנו מקרה נוסף אחד של אל-עבאסייה (יהודיה) / רמת גן, פתח תקוה.

Bat Yam / Jabaliyya

16.12.1947

In the morning several Arabs came to the Beer brewery in Bat Yam and wished to meet with the representatives of the local council in order to “make peace”. In a meeting set for the same day the two sides presented their demands. Their mutual understanding was translated into action that very evening, and for the first time electrical power lit up Jabaliya.

23.12.1947

The mukhtar of Jabaliya, having been active for peace between Jabaliya and Bat Yam, was badly beaten by opponents.

Ma'ale Hahamisha / Bayt Thul

25.3.1947

Representatives of Beit Thul and Katana villages came to ask the Jews for forgiveness and peace. The Jews forgave them ‘the pig’ incident, but all the rest was discussed in the presence of the district officer. The meeting resulted in the decision that the Jews would withdraw their legal charges against the mukhtar’s son and forgive him the insult.

Qatanna and Ma'ale Hahamisha

23.12.1947

Because of the guard duty in their village, the people of Katana asked to be notified in advance by the people of Ma'ale Hahamisha if any of them intended to come over. Thus, injury would be avoided and good neighborly relations will be kept.

Bisan Valley Arabs / Kefar Rupin

5.3.1947

Following the murder of a member of Kefar Rupin, a “peace alliance” was forged. About three hundred persons of different localities in the area participated in the reconciliation ceremony. Alongside the food and speeches, reparations were set to be paid for the education of the murder victim’s baby. Tirah villagers who took his upbringing upon themselves committed themselves – to all those present – to raise him in the spirit of reconciliation and explain to him that Jews and Arabs live in peace.

Maoz Chayim {Beit Shean Valley/Bisan Valley

31.12.1947

The Zinatis say they saw two Arabs from Transjordan on this day, hiding in the wadi and planning to assassinate settlers of Maoz Chayim. They immediately surrounded them, beat them up and chased them off.

Arab Al-Zubayd / Kefar Hassidim

January 1948

The elders of Zubayd rejected the efforts of a neighboring villager to recruit them to shoot at inhabitants of Kefar Hassidim. The elders managed to prevent the onslaught and even warned the inciter that he would be harmed if he goes along with his plan.

Battir / Bayit Vagan / Beit Hakerem

Batir villagers refused to let armed forces into their village, saying: “We have always been good friends and such we shall remain”.

Hunin / Manara

Hunin villagers opposed the attack against Manara and refused to cooperate.

al-Manshiyya / Giv'at Hayim

15.12.1947

Arabs of the region sought peace with the Jews.

Masmiyya / Kefar Menahem

4.2.1948

In answer to the question why the Arab delegation came armed to a friendly meeting, one of the participants said he chose to give this meeting an official air and the village gave him an escort. At the meeting, many complaints were made against “both Arab and Jewish leaderships who dragged matters towards partition and riots”. The Arabs emphasized that if the Jews would not harass the village, they too would refrain from attacking Jewish localities and convoys traveling through the village.

Baqa Al Gharbiyya / Kibbutz Ma'anit

13.1.1948

The mukhtar promised to maintain calm in the area. He requested that the Jews do likewise.

'Aqir/ Ekron

16.12.1947

At week's end Mustafa Moussa – 'Aqir mukhtar – asked Ekron's mukhtar to maintain good relations. He added that Jews should not ride their pick-up trucks through the village at night and promised that 'Aqir villagers would not harm them in any way.

January 1948:

Ramla inhabitants pressured 'Aqir to accept 100 armed men from the hills, coming to reside there. 'Aqir villagers refused, saying they have enough youngsters to defend themselves and do not wish to attack.

20.2.1948:

At the initiative of the village mukhtar, 'Aqir villagers sent messengers to Ekron every time the Ekron bus was late for any reason. They asked for bus rides to continue un-intimidated.

Kiryat Anavim / Abu Ghosh

January 1948

“This is the calmest of areas. Abu Ghosh village elders met with Lifta villagers and decided to make peace between themselves and the Jews. Both sides now live in friendship.”

Kiryat Anavim / Bayt Naqquba

31.3.1947

A Jew knocked out an Arab's tooth. The Arabs stoned the Jews. The Arabs came to Kiryat Anavim, apologized and the two sides were reconciled.

25.1.1948:

Gunfire was opened at a vehicle convoy near Kiryat Anavim. One of the village elders of Bayt Naqquba yelled to stop the shooting. Fire was held on both sides. Shortly thereafter things were sorted out and apparently a misunderstanding had taken place and the peaceful relations of the two localities would continue as before.

2.2.1948:

Beit Naquba elders visited Kiryat Anavim and complained about the riotous state of things throughout the country. They said Kiryat Anavim and Bayt Naqquba should prevent their good neighborly relations from changing in spite of the general situation.

Conversation of Ben Shemen mukhtar with Lydd mayor and Haditha mukhtar

7.1.1948

The participants deliberated how to temper the presence of armed Jews and Arabs in the area, and how to defend the communities against external “mindless and irresponsible” forces who might arrive and cause the present relations to deteriorate. Participants expressed

their honest desire for peace on the basis of good neighborly relations and said: “you have lived among us here for many years now, and nothing has happened”.

Be'er Tuviya / al-Masmiyya

February 1948

Negotiations leading to a reconciliation ceremony followed the catching of thieves who hid in Masmiyya. The villagers brought Be'er Tuviya sheep, rice, coffee and sugar. The Masmiyya village elders wished to make peace and compensate Be'er Tuviya for the damages.

Kufr Saba / Kefar Sava

January 1948

The Jewish Workers' Association of Kefar Sava demanded of its members not to work in a certain orange grove where Arab workers are employed as well. The Arab workers asked to maintain their friendly and neighborly relations with the Jewish workers and retain their rights. In meetings they initiated with the Jews they reached a common understanding about “maintaining peace in our area”.

Lifta / Mekor Baruch / Romema

January 1948

Hundreds of Arabs congregated in Lifta in order to attack the inhabitants of Mekor Baruch and Romema neighborhoods (where Jews and Arabs lived together). Lifta villagers prevented them from doing so.

Bayt Hanina / Neve Yaacov

Arabs of Beit Hanina and Jews of Neve Yaacov forged a peace alliance. They began to inform each other of any movement of strangers in the area.

Al-Maliha / Mekor Hayim / Bayit Vagan

14.1.1948

The villagers turned down the Arab commander of Jerusalem who expected them to join an assault against the Jewish neighborhoods. That very evening, Jews attacked the Arab

villagers. The Arabs relayed an unequivocal message, that they were interested in good relations and that this was no evidence “of their weakness”. As proof, they pointed out machine-guns placed at the four corners of the village.

Sur Bahir / Talpiyot

18.1.1948

At a meeting in a Talpiyot home, participants sought ways to maintain the ceasefire. Modes of cooperation were discussed for the eventuality that violence might be incited by non-locals. An additional meeting took place a few days later at the Sur Bahr flour mill.

Sur Bahir / Umm Tuba / Ramat Rachel / Arnona

3.2.1948

The meeting was friendly and reflected the desire for good neighborly relations. Various topics were discussed and demands were raised by both sides.

Nahariya / Tarshiha

9.6.1947

At the first meeting held to improve neighborly relations between the Jews and Arabs, their good relations were emphasized. Dr. Hirsch proposed that physicians receive poor patients from the neighboring villages without fees, and the veterinarian offered to deliver lectures and guide cattlemen in fighting disease. The chairman of Tarshiha local council invited the participants to lunch.

Karkur / Al Jawad'a / Wadi 'Ara / 'Ar'ara / Ein Iron / Kefar Pines / Mishmarot / Gan Hashomron / Lehavot Haviva / Ein Shemer / Narbata

29.8.1947

At the meeting, the importance of joint councils was stressed following the riots in Jaffa/Tel Aviv. One of the speakers said: “As a part of the Arab nation, we are obliged to live with you as well. Arab history is replete with examples of good neighborly relations”. Another added: “We live upon one earth and reality requires us to find a *modus Vivendi*”. The meeting ended

with the resolution to create a joint committee – *lajnat al waseta* – to avoid provocations and settle matters peacefully.

Dayr Yassin / Giv'at Shaul

20.1.1948

The two sides reached an agreement of good neighborliness - “Dayr Yassin villagers will inform (the Jewish neighborhood) of the presence of gang members in the area (in case they will not manage to force them away) with the following signals: in daytime people of Dayr Yassin will hang up laundry at an agreed-upon spot (two white articles and a black one in between). The neighborhood’s reply – a red piece of laundry. At night – people of Dayr Yassin will use a flashlight to signal three dots, Givat Shaul neighborhood will reply with a dash, Dayr Yassin will conclude with three dots. After exchanging the above signals a meetings should take place at a set spot the password to which will be changed every 3 days.”

Kefar Glickson / Qannir

Non-locals staying at Kanir demand of the villagers to carry out an attack against Kefar Glickson. The villagers oppose the initiative and wish to continue their employment at the Jewish settlement.

Kefar Ata / Al Kasayir village

March 1947

The chairman of Kefar Ata’s local council visited Al Qsayir village on the Muslim holiday of Eid Al Fitr. The two sides discussed their neighborly relations and agreed to maintain a peace alliance.

Kefar Ata / Ard As-Sarris

30.1.1948

The village mukhtar described the Arabs’ fear of the Jews. The Jewish representative wished to calm him and claimed that if they refrain from attacking the Jews, they would not be in any danger. The mukhtar declared that inhabitants of the whole area wish to “be in contact with Jews and discuss the danger posed by the gangs over both communities”.

Tubas / Kibbutz Tirat Tzevi

12.3.1947

Elders of the two localities meet and arrange a reconciliation dinner. At the dinner the two rifles will be returned that had been taken from Tubas villagers by Tirat Tzevi kibbutz members.

Al Lydd / Kefar Ben Shemen

22.12.1947

The Arab press reported that a delegation from Kefar Ben Shemen arrived at Al Lydd bearing a white flag, wishing to maintain good neighborly relations. The item was denied.

Al Lydd / Ben Shemen

30.12.1947

The Arab who warned the passengers of the car stopped and ignited by Arabs is 23-year old Abdel Lateef, a resident of the city of Al Lydd. This person believes in Jewish-Arab cooperation following the removal of British rule from the country.

Khirbet Bayt Far / Kefar Uriya

January 1948

One of the elders of Khirbet Bayt Far appealed to Kefar Uriya requesting peace. Kefar Uriya residents promised that if no gunfire opened from within the village, they would not attack either.

Tall as-Safi / Kefar Menahem

18.12.1947

Young Arabs came to Tel Assaffe village to incite the village youngsters to attack Kefar Menahem. The villagers refused and said they do not want to provoke Jews and that a ceasefire was in force.

Al-Khalil (Hebron) / Kefar Etzyon

The mayor of Hebron prevented an attack that was planned by the city against Kefar Etzyon.

Miska / Kibbutz Ramat Hakovesh

20.1.1948

Miska villagers wished to reinstate peace in the area after Ramat Hakovesh guards had been robbed of their weapons. They asked the national committee of Tul karm to intervene in order to prevent future weapons thefts from Jews.

Kufr Kar'a / Kefar Glickson

20.1.1948

The two sides met and discussed “solving joint problems”. Demands were made to assure free passage for farmers on their way to work their lands, as well as a request for economic-agriculture partnership to overcome the village’s floundering economy. “The kibbutz would offer land and water and the Arabs would tend the field”.

Hadera / Tulkarm

25.1.1948

The guards at the orange groves reassured their neighbors that their instructions were to “maintain good relations with the Jews”.

as-Sumayriyya / Regba / Shavei Tziyon

26.1.1948

Members of the national committee visited Samiriya. They issued strict instructions not to enter in any conflicts with Regba and Shavei Tziyon.

Yehi'am / 'Akka

Arab combatants demand an attack against Yehi'am in retaliation for Jewish assaults. Akka inhabitants wished to maintain peace in the area and objected to be drawn into the general escalation.

De-Colonizer's addition:

al-'Abisiyya (Yahudiyya) / Petakh Tikva and Ramat Gan

File 19/105 in Hahagana archive: Yahudiyya residents prevented from robbers to harm Petakh Tikva and Ramat Gan.

25.5.1947

יהודיה (אל-עביסיה) / פתח תקוה ורמת גן

תיק 105/19 בארכיון ההגנה: אנשי יהודיה מנעו משודדים לפגוע בפתח תקוה ורמת גן.
25.5.1947