

Occupied Palestine, May 27 2014

To:

*H.E. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General, United Nations
First Avenue and East 44th Street
New York, New York, U.S.A.*

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

We write to you to ask urgent action against Israel's systematic policy of forced transfer and ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people, in particular the Palestinian farmers and Bedouin communities and communities located in the so-called Area C of the occupied West Bank. We urge the United Nations to finally acknowledge the systematic and gross character of Israeli population transfer as a war crime and a crime against humanity, to act effectively to stop the crime and hold the responsible persons, state and non-state actors accountable.

This letter accompanies a popular protest in from the United Nations offices in Ramallah that we have organized in reaction to the latest home demolitions that have displaced the Palestinian Bedouin community in Abu Al Jaj. The protest aims to break the silence of the United Nations and the international community in front of ongoing ethnic cleansing, which prevents Palestinian rights and dignity.

On the 21st of May 2014, the houses and animal barracks of 13 families (affecting 71 people) were demolished in Abu Al Jaj Refugee Camp, located in the middle of the Jordan Valley's Area C. This has been only the last episode in an ongoing policy of displacement and population transfer, which has continued in varying intensity and different forms since 1947. In the Naqab/Negev some 40 000 Palestinian Bedouin citizens of Israel are currently under imminent threat of forced transfer. As for the occupied West Bank, UN OCHA has documented during the years between 2009-2013 the demolition of a total of 2603 structures and the displacement of 4325 Palestinians from their homes. The trend for both has been relentlessly growing and almost tripled or doubled respectively. The large majority of the home demolitions have occurred in the Jordan Valley or other locations in Area C. Since the beginning of the year 611 people have already been displaced in the West Bank and 308 structures destroyed.

At least since July 2011 UNOCHA has been officially informed by the Israeli Civil Administration of a 'relocation plan' of Bedouin communities and communities in area C. Still, no effective measures have been undertaken by the UN system to stop these policies of forced transfer and ethnic cleansing and to tackle the root causes. Instead, the UN system and international humanitarian organizations have limited their response to ongoing documentation of facts and to ensure 'humanitarian sustainability' for the continual ethnic cleansing of our people.

We would like to remind H.E. and the UN system that Israel's systematic, gross and intentional forced displacement is proscribed and considered a war crime and a crime against humanity according to the Fourth Geneva Convention and the Rome Statute and are part of the inhumane acts

cited by the Rome Statute that as a complex policy of violations constitute the crime of apartheid.

We further remind H.E. and the UN system that international law confers clear obligations to the international community and the UN in front of grave breaches of international law, among which are the obligation not to recognize and aid and assist the implementation of these violations and the maintenance of the situation created by them as well as the obligation to act individually and collectively to stop these violations. In not complying with these obligations, the UN member states themselves incur into complicity and undermine the very basis of the United Nations system of international law.

It is beyond doubt that the United Nations is well aware of the ongoing crimes - as UN agencies are among the bodies that most meticulously document these violations - yet hardly anything has been done to respect the obligations of the United Nations and the international community.

We therefore ask you to ensure:

- ⇒ the United Nations and the international community to speak up, denounce the ongoing forced displacement and underline the relevant international obligations in front of this crime, including through the formation of an International Independent Fact Finding Mission on the crime of forced population transfer of the Palestinian people in any of the areas under Israeli control, including an investigation into responsible and complicit state and non-state actors and necessary measures of accountability.
- ⇒ the United Nations develop monitoring mechanisms that trace individual and collective responsibility and complicity of state and non-state actors in the crime of forced displacement and ensure these actors are held accountable.
- ⇒ the United Nations put sanctions on Israel until it ends its violations of Palestinian human rights and international law.

Best regards,

Land's Right Coalition
The Popular council to protect Jordan Valley
Palestinian Farmers Union
Jordan Solidarity Campaign

The following affected communities:

Makhol, Hummsah, Al-Hadedyeh, Almaleh communities, Samra, Yarza, Ras El-Ahmar, Abu Ajaj, Fasayel, Al- Hammeh, the Beduin communities in Jericho district, East of Nablus communities Twayiel, Yanoun, Tana, South of Hebron communities Susia and Beduin communities south of Yatta and Al-Jahlean and other Beduian communities neighborhoods around Jerusalem.