

Statement on World Habitat Day The Palestinian Housing Right Movement

Every year, in the world Habitat Day, wounds are reopened and hope rekindled in Palestine. In this day, the whole world unanimously approved the right to adequate housing for all people regardless of their race or nationality, sex or age.

Meanwhile, the Israeli colonial activities threaten the Palestinians right to adequate housing on the lands of their ancestors. The Israelis are preventing the Palestinians from Organizational planning as well as depriving them from obtaining construction permits in areas under the Israeli control; thus, many Palestinian families become obliged to renovate, expand, or rebuild their homes over their properties "illegally" according to the **unjust** and **discriminatory** Israeli laws which activates the Israeli demolition machinery which spares no home regardless of its type, area, usage, etc.

Consequently, Palestine has been a theatre for day-to-day violations of the right to adequate housing in addition to land confiscations and explicit discrimination.

The Palestinians are deprived from all kinds of housing, especially those in East Jerusalem and "Area C" according to Oslo Agreement. The Israeli intention of ethnically cleansing the Palestinian population and take over their lands are apparent.

It is the kind of occupation where the people, owners of the land, are to be removed and replaced by others, in this case, the Jews of Israel. This is evident in the house demolitions taking place all around the West Bank; since the beginning of 2011, around 400 Palestinian structures (houses and others) were demolished in the West Bank including East Jerusalem on top of 583 demolition or stop-work orders.

Voices calling for democracy and freedom are heard all around the world and, at the same time, the Israeli radicalism is flourishing, fumed with feelings of hatred and discrimination.

The Israeli summons for annihilating the Palestinians since the emergence of the Zionist movement in 1879 and the ethnic cleansing policy adopted by the Israeli leadership ever since; these calls have went further by a statement made by Jewish Rabies calling for establishing "**concentration camps**" for Palestinians prior to vanquishing them while considering it a "**religious obligation**".

The overall racist and discriminatory atmosphere in Israel form an incubator for more hostility and violence committed against the Palestinian population under various names; all made with a sole purpose of expelling them, permanently.

The overall seemingly approving attitude of the International Community in regard to the call for the declaration of a Palestinian state few days earlier makes the International Community accountable for standing up for the Palestinian people in support of their right to living peacefully with dignity and their right to adequate housing.

It is clear that the right to adequate housing is a fundamental right to all humans, a right that is critical for a life with dignity for households and members of households; losing such a right renders a person and his/her family susceptible to all kinds of damage and maltreatment.

We, in this day, call for joining efforts to make a stand against the Israeli measures in an attempt to neutralize them and minimize the damage imposed on Palestinian families.

The Palestinian Housing Right movement which emerged to defend this right has been monitoring the Israeli colonial measures, measures leveling up to be considered war crimes and crimes against humanity; it calls all the International bodies, the United Nations and its agencies, human rights and legal organization to act upon their respected mandates and tackle house demolitions and other violations of Palestinian rights; all according to its capabilities and specialty.

We demand an immediate, grave, and courageous stand needed to face such hostility against a right to be preserved and to contribute to a world where peace and prosperity arise.

Palestine, throughout history, has been incubating its sons and daughters, offering them the chance to peacefully live, work, and pray and it shall remain a stronghold protecting the values of humanity.

**The Palestinian Housing Rights Movement
The State of Palestine**

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