



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORTING FAIR TRIAL & HUMAN RIGHTS

Registration No. 2795/2012

OFFICIAL LETTER HEAD OF THE ORGANIZATION

ICSFT CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S PLAN TO BUILD HUNDREDS OF ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT HOMES IN RAMAT SHLOMO

As a result of lack of accountability frameworks to hold Israel accountable for its illegal settlements and massacre of innocent and unarmed Palestinian protesters, Israel is expanding its illegal settlement policy unabated. In an apparent move that violates the property rights of Palestinian landowners through and through, Israeli District Planning and Building Committee in Jerusalem approved on Tuesday, 7 November 2018 the construction of 640 new settlement units in the illegal settlement of Ramat Shlomo, Israeli.



Illegal settlement homes

The Palestinian foreign ministry condemned this decision and pointed out that this is Israel's plan "to swallow the West Bank and undermine any international

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effort to achieve peace based on the two-state solution.” Particularly worrying is the high proportion of new housing units in settlements that are located far from the 1967 border and the retroactive legalization of apartments built on private Palestinian land in an illegal outpost.

The settlements hinder the search for a just and lasting peace and impedes the two-state solution, it also fuels tensions on the ground.

Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem in the 1967 war and has since built dozens of settlements there.

In addition to expanding the illegal settlement the Israeli forces are consistently harassing Palestinians. To illustrate, today Israeli occupation forces raided a Palestinian school referred to as “Challenge School 10” in the northern Jordan Valley region of the West Bank disrupting classes and dismantling then confiscating property.



Palestinian children can be seen at school in the West Bank

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The Palestinian Ministry of Education established Challenge Schools throughout so-called “Area C” of the occupied West Bank, because Israeli occupation authorities reject building permits requests by Palestinians all the while facilitating the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements.

Additionally, Israel want a license to kill the Palestinians with impunity, and they want them to keep silent while being killed. Whenever they are criticized for committing crimes against humanity by wiping Palestinian neighborhoods off the map; they reply by bombing hospitals, schools and places of worship; and targeting ambulances, TV stations, power and water plants, roads and bridges. More than 220 Palestinians who were killed by the Israeli occupation forces in Gaza since the “March of Return” started 31 weeks ago. Thanks to the whitewashed media and political alliance with USA, Israel has been successful at reserving the victim status exclusively for Jews. They have managed to pressure international organizations to turn a blind eye to breaches of International law, and even legalize the state’s criminality by inaction.

Israel wages war on those who dare to undermine its colonial narrative; those who report Israeli atrocities on the ground, and expose their dark side. Israeli forces target journalists, social media activists and whoever else happens to be there and is willing to speak out. Since 2000, Israel has killed at least 39 journalists in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank, 16 of whom have been killed this year alone. Israeli security forces have physically assaulted 64 journalists. Since 2008, Israel has bombed around 50 media facilities in Gaza. In 2017, the Israeli occupation forces committed more than 2,100 violations against journalists, including mass detentions, especially during clashes with Palestinian protesters.

Israel’s settlement activity constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and has no legal validity. It demands that Israel stop such activity and fulfill its obligations as an occupying power under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

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Gravely concerned by the illegal settlement and excessive use of force and extrajudicial killing and systemic deprivation of the right to life and equal protection of Palestinians by the occupying Israeli forces.

Condemning the failure of Israel, the occupying power, to cooperate fully with the relevant United Nations mechanisms, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.

ICSFT Calls on the international community to immediately end the Israeli occupation in Palestine, and to hold Israel accountable of its Occupation policy of targeted assassinations. We also urge Israel to reconsider and reverse this decision.

ICSFT unequivocally supports the legal right of Palestinian people to self-determination and return to their homeland and urges the international community to adopt measures as required to promote the realization to self-determination of the Palestinian people, and to stand in solidarity with them in this regard!