

# URGENT ACTION

## PALESTINIAN PROPERTIES AT RISK OF DEMOLITION

**On 18 September, the Israeli military served three “stop work” orders against four domestic structures belonging to three Palestinian Bedouin families in the Tubas district in the occupied West Bank. These orders precede demolition orders, so the properties could be destroyed at any time. The villages are in “Area C” where the Israeli authorities effectively prohibit any Palestinian construction.**

The orders were given in Tell al-Himma and al-Farisiya villages, in the Tubas district in the occupied West Bank. They were issued because the families lack permits to build, despite the structures already being fully built.

In al-Farisiya, a “stop work” order was issued against an animal shelter belonging to **Salah Abu Amer’s** family. This affects six people, including two children. In Tell al-Himma, the structures include two for livestock (one belonging to **Ghaleb Fuqha** and one to **Mahmoud Ayoub**) and a third used for meetings and social occasions belonging also to Mahmoud Ayoub. In total, 13 people including nine children are affected. The structures in Tell al-Himma were reportedly donated by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) three years ago.

Ghaleb Fuqha has dismantled his animal shelter, stating his fears “if they ... demolish this now then my home will be next.” His herd of 50 sheep are likely to suffer as they cannot shelter from the harsh sun or the winter to come.

The two villages are in Area C, which makes up 60% of occupied West Bank. In this area, the construction of homes and other structures is effectively prohibited. Applications to build are invariably turned-down as the land is mostly designated for Israeli settlements, illegal under international law, or for Israeli military zones.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the occupied Palestinian territory (OCHA) states that since July 2010, the Israeli authorities have destroyed 117 structures including homes in al-Farisiya. This has led to the displacement of 129 people, including 63 children.

### **Please write immediately in English, Hebrew or your own language:**

- Urging the Israeli authorities to ensure that the “stop work” orders in Tell al-Himma and al-Farisiya are immediately withdrawn and express concern that the destruction of the properties would pose a serious threat to the livelihoods of the families;
- Calling on the authorities to place an immediate moratorium on house demolitions and forced evictions in the West Bank and to review its housing policy and issuance of construction permits in accordance with the UN Human Rights Committee’s recommendations.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 NOVEMBER 2011 TO:**

#### Minister of Defence

Ehud Barak  
Ministry of Defence  
37 Kaplan Street, Hakiryia  
Tel Aviv 61909, Israel  
Fax: +972 3 6916940/6962757  
Email: minister@mod.gov.il  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

#### Military Judge Advocate General

Brigadier General Danny Efroni  
6 David Elazar Street  
Hakiryia, Tel Aviv, Israel  
Fax: +972 3 569 4526  
Email: avi\_n@idf.gov.il  
**Salutation: Dear Judge Advocate  
General**

#### IDF Chief of Staff

Lieutenant-General Benny Gantz  
c/o Ministry of Defence  
7 A' Street,  
Hakiryia, Tel Aviv, Israel  
Fax: +972 3 6916940/6976218  
**Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-General**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A local council official told Amnesty International that no demolitions have taken place in Tel al-Himma since 1989, when the Israeli army demolished a brick house. In Tel al-Himma, land is registered as private property in contrast to most land in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) which was declared (Israeli) state land as a result of the historical trend dating back to the Ottoman period whereby residents have tended not to register land.

On 6 August 2010 Amnesty International [issued an urgent action](#) on behalf of 92 Palestinians from the village of Hmayyir, in the al-Farisiya area, whose homes had been demolished the previous day. During the demolition 27 tents serving as homes and 10 other properties used for agricultural purposes were destroyed. These tents had only just been erected after they were donated to the families by a humanitarian organization and the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Local Government as an emergency measure, because the Israeli army had destroyed 74 properties, including homes, in the previous month affecting over 100 people.

Tubas lies within the 60 per cent of the West Bank designated as "Area C", which is completely under Israeli control. Palestinians living there face recurrent destruction of their property and severe restrictions on building. The Palestinian population in the Jordan Valley, who have lived there since long before the Israeli army occupied the West Bank in 1967, has consistently faced discriminatory Israeli policies relating to planning, building, and access to land and water, and has suffered particular pressure as some of the region's most poor and vulnerable people. The inhabitants of the Tubas region, like many Palestinians in the Jordan Valley and the occupied West Bank, live each day under the threat of forcible eviction from their homes and land by the Israeli army. They are also subject to restrictions on their movement.

On 29 July 2010, the UN Human Rights Committee issued its observations following its consideration of Israel's report on its implementation of its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Israel is a state party. The Committee expressed concern at Israel's "frequent administrative demolition of property, homes, as well as schools in the West Bank and East Jerusalem due to the absence of construction permits, their issuance being frequently denied to Palestinians... [and] discriminatory municipal planning systems, in particular in "area C" of the West Bank, as well as East Jerusalem, disproportionately favouring the Jewish population of these areas". It called on the Israeli authorities to "further review its housing policy and issuance of construction permits with a view to implementing the principle of non-discrimination regarding minorities, in particular Palestinians" (Ref: CCPR/C/ISR/CO/3, see <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/CCPR.C.ISR.CO.3.doc>).

Name: Saleh Abu Amer, Ghaleb Fuqha and Mahmoud Ayoub's families (3 Bedouin families)

Gender m/f: both

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