

# URGENT ACTION

## PALESTINIAN PROPERTIES DEMOLISHED

**Yesterday morning, without warning, the Israeli army destroyed four domestic structures in al-Farisiya and Tell al-Himma, in the Tubas district in the occupied West Bank. This has affected three Palestinian Bedouin families of at least 19 people, including at least 11 children.**

At about 8.30 am on 6 October 2011, the Israeli military demolished **Saleh Abu Amer's** animal shelter in al-Farisiya village. About half an hour later, an animal shelter and a residential structure belonging to **Mahmoud Ayoub** was destroyed in the nearby village of Tell al-Himma. Mahmoud Ayoub's father and brother had been living in the residential structure for the last three years. It was also used for meetings and social events.

**Ghaleb Fuqha**, also of Tell al-Himma, described to Amnesty International how yesterday at around 10.00 am, six Israeli military vehicles, including four army jeeps and a bulldozer, arrived at his home. The army bulldozed the cement foundation of his animal shelter and destroyed the metal poles used to support the structure in order to prevent him from re-building. When he tried to talk to the soldiers they pushed him aside.

The four domestic structures destroyed yesterday were subject to "stop work" orders on 18 September, which were issued because the families lacked permits to build, despite the structures already being fully built. The orders were not followed by demolition orders, and the residents had no prior warning of the demolitions. The properties in Tell al-Himma had been donated to the village in 2008 by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

In contrast to much land in the Occupied Palestinian Territories which has been declared by the Israeli authorities as state land, Tel al-Himma is registered as private property, according to a local council official. Ghaleb Fuqha told Amnesty International that his land is "privately owned, I have papers for it, it's under my father's name."

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

- Condemning the demolition of the structures in al-Farisiya and Tell al-Himma and urging that all demolition and eviction orders against Palestinians here and in the occupied West Bank be cancelled immediately;
- Expressing your deep concern that it appears that no demolition orders were presented to the residents in advance of the destruction;
- Deploing the demolitions in Tell al-Himma and al-Farisiya, which pose a serious threat to the livelihoods and well-being of the families.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 18 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](mailto: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](mailto: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. This is the first update of UA 297/11. Further information: [www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/036/2011/en](http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE15/036/2011/en)

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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The villages of al-Farisiya and Tell al-Himma are in the Tubas district of the occupied West Bank and lie within the 60 per cent of the vicinity which is designated as "Area C", which is under Israeli civil and military control. Palestinians living there face recurrent destruction of their property and severe restrictions on building. Palestinians must apply for building permits from the Israeli military authorities which are virtually impossible to obtain. 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. Many Jordan Valley residents 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.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the occupied Palestinian territory (OCHA), since July 2010, the Israeli authorities have destroyed 117 structures including homes in al-Farisiya, leading to the displacement of 129 people, including 63 children. Read more on Amnesty International's work on al-Farisiya [here](#).

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

Further information on UA: 297/11 Index: MDE 15/038/2011 Issue Date: 7 October 2011