Palestine is the barometer of Western integrity

HJFP MONTHLY PALESTINE REVIEW – DECEMBER 2014

Don't call me a Palestinian of the Palestinian Territories because it is called Palestine.
Don't give me a fraction of my homeland and call it a solution.
Don't give me oppression and call it peace.
Don't give me a Bantustan and call it a home.
Don't give me a prison and call it freedom.
Don't draw the borders of my existence according to your whims and interests and call it a state.
My Palestine is the home that is mine since the dawn of history till the end of history.

VIOLENCE, DESTRUCTION AND KILLINGS

Child Prisoners 18.12.2014 No More Forgotten Lives

On May 15, 2014, Mohammad Abu Daher, 16, was shot in the back by an Israeli soldier in the occupied West Bank city of Beitunia. One hour earlier, Israeli forces fatally shot Nadeem Nawara, 17, in the same spot. While an Israeli border policeman has been arrested by Israeli authorities and faces manslaughter charges in connection with Nadeem's killing, Mohammad's family continues to wait for justice.

Click here to learn the #beituniaboys story.

With your help, we can demand accountability for Mohammad's killing. DCI-Palestine has already taken critical steps to pursue justice for Nadeem and Mohammad—by releasing security camera footage that captured the moment when both youths were fatally shot, and a Forensic Architecture video analysis pinpointing Nadeem's killer. Both families deserve to see their sons' killers held accountable for their crimes.

Join our day of action on January 14, #NoMoreForgottenLives.

Join our Thunderclap action to speak as one voice against the killings of Mohammad and Nadeem and the at least eight other children killed by Israeli forces with live ammunition in the occupied West Bank in 2014.

Join us, and challenge impunity now.

Brad Parker, International Advocacy Officer and Attorney, Defence of Children International

Gaza
02.12.2014 Why aid isn't getting into Gaza

http://electronicintifada.net/blogs/ali-abunimah/palestinians-demand-end-un-complicity-gaza-siege
Tell the UN: Don't reward Israel for Gaza massacre | BDSmovement.net

Palestinians demand end to UN complicity in Gaza siege

Palestinians in the heavily damaged Gaza City neighborhood of Shujaiya shelter under a tent during heavy rains, 16 November. (Anne Paq / ActiveStills)

"Don't reward Israel for Gaza massacre." That's the message Palestinians are calling on people around the world to deliver to United Nations officials, urging them to end their complicity in Israel's ongoing siege of Gaza. The call comes as it is increasingly clear that the so-called Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism brokered by the UN with Israel has failed. The closure of the territory, home to almost 1.8 million Palestinians, imposed in 2007, has remained as tight as ever despite pledges of $5.4 billion in reconstruction aidfollowing Israel's summer attack that killed more than 2,200 people and left much of Gaza devastated.

UN complicity and "corporate criminals"

"It is time the UN feel the extent of public outcry as details emerge of the UN's complicity in keeping Gaza under siege and the ways in which Israeli companies will profit from the reconstruction of Gaza," the Boycott National Committee (BNC) said in an email action alert today (see the online version). The BNC, the steering group of the Palestinian boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign, warned that "companies that are set to rake in profits providing materials for the reconstruction of Gaza are corporate criminals." They include firms like Israel's Nesher and ReadyMix cement suppliers, which "pillage Palestinian natural resources and participate in the construction of illegal settlements," the BNC said.

No reconstruction

In October, The Electronic Intifada revealed details of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, brokered with Israel by Robert Serry, UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO). The Electronic Intifada reported that the secretive arrangement effectively turns the UN into the chief enforcer of Israel's ongoing siege. Under the guise of reconstruction, the UN monitors and gathers detailed private information about Palestinian households to be passed on to Israel, which has a veto over which families get aid to rebuild their homes. And despite promises that the deal would at least allow Palestinians made homeless by Israeli bombing to quickly rebuild, the mechanism is not working. The 28 trucks of cement which entered Gaza today is only the second delivery of building materials for the private sector since the summer assault, the Ma'an News Agency reported. This is a tiny drop in the bucket and follows a previous delivery, also small, of 75 trucks more than a month ago. The UN estimates that more than 100,000 homes were damaged or destroyed in Israel's attacks, affecting more than 600,000

people – one third of Gaza's population. Raed Fattuh, an official of the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority, told Ma'an that deliveries had been halted by Israel since October.

UNRWA blows the whistle

Even UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestine refugees, which initially gave a cautious welcome to the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, is now blowing the whistle on it. UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl said last week that "despite initial results, the process for reconstruction is proving far too slow and is largely ineffective." He added: "should this continue, we will reach the winter with no progress in rebuilding the homes of the many still displaced, including those still in UNRWA schools. The people of Gaza deserve much better and much more than that."

Passing the buck

The UN deal brokered by Serry has fed anger among Palestinians and disquiet among international aid organizations. But the latter have largely failed to speak out. In recent weeks, major aid organizations have remained publicly silent about the increasingly reviled Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism. Oxfam, one of the largest nongovernmental aid agencies working in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, for instance, repeatedly deflected The Electronic Intifada's requests for substantive comment on the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism. In one response, an Oxfam representative said, "We don't feel we are best placed to comment on the details of the mechanism." "For more specific information," the representative added, "we suggest contacting AIDA or UNSCO, which brokered the agreement." But when The Electronic Intifada contacted AIDA, the Association for International Development Agencies, based in occupied Jerusalem, it was told that AIDA is merely a coordinating body that didn't comment. It suggested that inquiries should be directed toward its individual members, of which Oxfam is one. Reached by telephone, Nick O'Regan, country director of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), which is operationally responsible for the Gaza plan, declined to discuss the matter with The Electronic Intifada.

It seems that aid agencies are competing to pass the buck and are – for some reason – reluctant to criticize a failed mechanism that was billed by the UN as the salvation of Palestinian victims of Israel's latest spasm of violence. UN acknowledges failure UNSCO spokesperson Nicole Ganz declined to comment directly on the BNC's criticisms, but directed The Electronic Intifada to two statements issued by Robert Serry earlier this month. In a 21 November statement, Serry acknowledged – albeit obliquely – the failure of his mechanism to kickstart reconstruction in Gaza. Serry also announced that "a further understanding" had been reached between the UN, Israel and the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority to begin to unblock the flow of building supplies. This is likely what led to today's tiny delivery of cement, but even the PA's Fattuh told the Ma'an News Agency that he had no idea if the delivery was merely a one-off.

Serry stated that "Special precautions have been taken to avoid the misuse of personal information of those wishing to access the mechanism." This is a vague response to Palestinian outrage over Israel's ability to use information obtained in UN needs assessments of Palestinian families to veto who gets aid. The UN's lack of transparency over the mechanism means that it is impossible for Serry's claims about any "precautions" to be evaluated. But Serry also admitted that "existing resources are not sufficient" and urged donor states "to make available as a matter of urgency" the funds they had previously pledged. The UN official also called "on all parties concerned to lend their full support to enable the mechanism to operate at the required scale" – suggesting that it is far from that now. Serry continues to present the UN as merely supporting the Palestinian Authority in implementing a deal for which the PA is ultimately responsible. But the reality is that Serry himself brokered and promoted the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism, which is why Palestinian anger is increasingly directed toward the UN. Serry says "he continues to believe that, if implemented in good faith, the [Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism] would represent a step forward towards the objective of lifting all remaining closures." It is a faith few Palestinians share. Rather, with despair rising in Gaza as winter temperatures drop, many believe the UN is helping Israel to give its siege international cover, and to reap profits from it as well.

"Take action now"

The message from the BNC is that Palestinians in Gaza cannot wait, and certainly won't count on the "good faith" of Israel. On its website, the BNC provides an easy form for people to send messages to top UN officials, including Serry. "Take action now and send a message to key UN officials urging them to stop Israel from profiting from Gaza's destruction and to adopt a procurement policy that excludes corporate criminals from tenders for Gaza reconstruction," the BNC says. It also calls on people in Europe to demand that the EU suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement, the free trade agreement that allows Israel access to EU markets and funding.

Submitted by Ali Abunimah on Tue, 25 November 2014

Tell the UN: Don't reward Israel for Gaza massacre

International donors have pledged $5.4 billion to rebuild Gaza after Israel's 50-day assault last summer that killed 2,254 Palestinians, including 538 children, and caused widespread destruction. About 45% of the aid pledged by international donors will benefit the Israeli economy. Some studies calculate this figure to be as high as 71%. Israeli companies see Israel's siege of Gaza a profit making opportunity, exploiting Gaza's captive market.

The companies that are set to rake in profits providing materials for the reconstruction of Gaza are corporate criminals. They pillage Palestinian natural resources and participate in the construction of illegal settlements:

- Nesher, an Israeli cement monopoly, supplies cement to the apartheid wall, checkpoints and settlements.
- ReadyMix runs plants in various settlements, including the Ariel and Mishor Edomim industrial zones.
- Hanson Israel, which manufactures ready-made cement and asphalt, operates four plants in West Bank settlements and is involved in illegal quarrying.

UN bodies have repeatedly ignored demands from Palestinian civil society to stop rewarding corporations for their war crimes against Palestinians. It is time they feel the extent of public outcry as details emerge of the UN's complicity in keeping Gaza under siege and the ways in which Israeli companies will profit from the reconstruction of Gaza.

Take action now and send a message to key UN officials urging them to stop Israel from profiting from Gaza's destruction and to adopt a procurement policy that exclude corporate criminals from tenders for Gaza reconstruction.

- See more at: http://www.bdsmovement.net/dont-reward-israel#sthash.XFfra8aM.dpuf

Israeli Politics 06.12.2014 Former head of Shin Bet denounces Netanyahu

Former head of Shin Bet Head at Peace Now Rally
Watch former Shin Bet Head Carmi Gilon speak at Peace Now's demonstration (Preview)

Media 15.12.2014 Why won't the media report on Israeli violence in East Jerusalem?

Israel operates a regime of control and violence across East Jerusalem. The Israeli army, police and settlers all play their part in the daily aggression against Palestinians, whose very existence in East Jerusalem is becoming increasingly precarious. But this large-scale violence goes unreported in the mainstream Western media. PSC's last update on East Jerusalem at the beginning of November – *What the media won't tell you about East Jerusalem* – detailed Israel's ethnic cleansing policies in the city. Our new update details some of the violence East Jerusalem Palestinians have faced in November and December, all against a resounding media silence.

Violence against children

13 Nov: 11-year-old Saleh Samer Mahmoud is blinded in one eye after being shot in the face by a sponge bullet fired from a grenade launcher by Israeli police. Saleh is shot at close range in the neighbourhood of al-Isawiya.

14 Nov: 10-year-old Mayar Amran Twafic- al-Natsheh is shot in the face by a rubber-coated steel bullet, fired by Israeli soldiers, and left with a fractured skull. Soldiers open fire on the car she is travelling in near the Shufat refugee camp checkpoint, which is being driven by her grandfather. As Mayar lies in hospital, Israeli forces arrest her father.

19 Nov: Khader al-Ajlouni, 16, is seriously injured when he is pushed down a flight of stairs at an Israeli police station during interrogation. The boy, abducted in East Jerusalem, suffers injuries to his neck, arms and back and is left unable to move an arm and leg on one side.

Abduction of children

24 Nov: Israeli soldiers stop 10-year-old Rashid Abu Sarah in the neighbourhood of Silwan, take off his shirt, blindfold him and drive him away in an army jeep. Soldiers also fire stun grenades in the neighbourhood.

24 Nov: Israeli soldiers abduct five children in the Old City – Rashid ar-Resheq, Badawi Abu Asab and Nasser Shaweesh, all 16, and 17-year-old Fadi Salayma and Abboud al-Haddad.

7 Dec: Israeli police storm Jabal al-Mukabir neighbourhood during the night and abduct 14-year-old Ali Abdu and 15-year-old Munther Abdu. On the same night, 16-year-olds Hisam Dweik and Muhammad Mustafa are abducted from al-Isawiya neighbourhood.

10 Dec: 8-year-old Obeida Ayash is abducted by Israeli police in Silwan, shortly after leaving school, where he is in the eighth grade. He is questioned for up to an hour before being released. His mother says he has trouble sleeping in the nights following his arrest.

Children under house arrest

25 Nov: 15-year-old Othman (pictured) and his 16-year-old brother, Obaid, are abducted from their home in the Old City in a dawn raid. Othman suffers physical violence, is threatened with rape and interrogated before being released. He is now being kept under house arrest, and is subjected to twice-daily visits from Israeli soldiers at any time of the day. Obaid remains in detention. The brothers haven't seen each other since the morning they were abducted. Defence for Children International (Palestine) documents the cases of Palestinian children held under house arrest by the occupation.

Abductions

23 Nov: Israeli soldiers conduct night raids, abducting Mahmoud Abdullah Dari and Uday Auri in al-Isawiya, Zeid Abed Rabbo Khalayla, 22, and Omar Hasan Hijazi, 21, in Jabal al-Mukabir, and Hasan Samir Khalfawi, 18, from Silwan, and another teenager from the Old City.

24 Nov: Israeli soldiers break into a home in Jabal al-Mukabir and abduct the father, 50, and his 20-year-old son in a night raid.

25 Nov: In a dawn raid, Israeli soldiers break into the Silwan home of Adnan Gheith, the secretary of the Fatah movement, and kidnap him and his brother, Sadeq. Also during the early hours, soldiers break into and ransack homes in several East Jerusalem neighbourhoods and the Old City. Several Palestinians are handed military orders to attend interrogations. Azzam an-Natsha, 20, Siyam Mahmoud, and a third Palestinian are kidnapped during the raids.

1 Dec: Three family members – Ali Ibrahim al-'Abbassi, 25, his uncle Khaled Ali al-'Abbassi, and his relative Emad Mhanna, 27 – are abducted by soldiers as they attend the court hearing of another relative.

7 Dec: 19-year-old Mohammad Shwekat is abducted from his home in Jabal al-Mukabir during the night.

Army and police violence

20 Nov: 12 young men are injured by rubber-coated steel bullets, including one left with serious head injuries, during clashes in the neighbourhoods of Jabal al-Mukabir, Sur Bahir and al-Tur. Four others, hit in the head and face, are also hospitalised.

22 Nov: Thaer Yaghmour, a pharmacist in his 40's, is left with a leg injury after Israeli forces fire a stun grenade at him in the neighbourhood of Shufat. The area was quiet at the time.

24 Nov: Israeli forces raid the homes of Ghassan and Udayy Abu Jamal, who were shot dead after attacking and killing worshippers at a Jerusalem synagogue. Soldiers fire tear gas bombs and rubber-coated steel bullets at youth outside the homes in Jabal al-Mukabir. Later, demolition orders are issued on the two houses.

25 Nov: Human rights groups accuse Israel of operating a shoot to kill policy, following several incidents in which Palestinians suspected of attacking Israelis are shot dead with no attempt to arrest them.

26 Nov: An Israeli soldier shoots a young Palestinian man in the head with a rubber-coated steel bullet, fracturing his skull, in the al-Tur neighbourhood. Separately, soldiers fire tear gas and rubber-coated bullets at mourners at a funeral in al-Tur, hitting Jasir Abu al-Hawa, 55, and his son, Ahmad, 18.

Violence, including settler violence

17 Nov: Yousef al-Ramoni, a Palestinian bus driver, is found hanging in his bus which is parked in a West Jerusalem depot. Photos show bruising on the 32-year-old's chest and sides, and an initial autopsy report says he it is likely he was murdered.

17 Nov: A large mob of ultra-religious settlers surround the carriage of a light rail tram carrying Ahmed Ghazzawi, a medical student, and five young Palestinian women in West Jerusalem. The mob, breaking off from an anti-Arab rally which is hundreds strong, kick the train, throw stones and try to open the doors, shouting 'Kill them, they're Arabs.' Ghazzawi said: 'This is the situation we residents of Jerusalem live every day. Even worse than that, many have been killed in this way.'

18 Nov: Fadi Jalal Radwan, 22, is stabbed three times in the legs and once in the back by a gang of Israelis who ask him for a light as he walks in north Jerusalem. Radwan is left lying bleeding in the street.

18 Nov: Settlers spit on the family of 16-year-old Mohammed Abu Khdeir as they leave the courthouse where those accused of killing him are being tried. Mohammed was abducted by settlers outside his home in Shufat in July, beaten with a metal pole, forced to drink petrol and set on fire.

20 Nov: Four Israeli women attack a Palestinian taxi driver with pepper spray, and another Palestinian says he was also attacked by a group of women in the centre of the city.

21 Nov: Three settlers beat 22-year-old Ahmad Yaqub al-Ghoul with iron bars and belts near the Old City, after forcing him and his friend from their car while it is stopped at traffic lights. Al-Ghoul is left unconscious.

21 Nov: A settler accelerates his car into 29-year-old Suzanne al-Kurd as she crosses the road to attend a mosque in Shufat. Al-Kurd is left lying in the street as the settler speeds off.

23 Nov: An Israeli woman breaks into a Palestinian home in Silwan and attacks 57-year-old Nima Abu Hadwan with pepper spray as she sleeps. Family members say Israeli police present in the area turned a blind eye to the attack.

24 Nov: Mahmoud Ubeid, 19, suffers injuries to his leg after being attacked by five settlers who pull over in a car and ask him for a light. The settlers are carrying knives and rods.

25 Nov: An Israeli driver deliberately runs into Palestinian teenager, Khalil al-Kiswani, in West Jerusalem, leaving the boy with fractures in his foot. The driver flees the scene.

1 Dec: Mohammed Shalayla, a taxi driver, is attacked with pepper spray when he stops to pick up a passenger in central Jerusalem. As he stops, a passer-by shouts 'Don't take that cab – the driver is Arab', and Mohammed is sprayed in the face.

Worryingly, journalist Jonathan Cook writes on 27 Nov: 'Israel is preparing to relax gun controls to allow thousands more Israeli Jews to carry weapons at a time when Palestinian taxi and bus drivers in Jerusalem say they are being regularly assaulted.'

Ha'aretz reports that there is roughly one violent attack on a Palestinian bus driver a day in Jerusalem, and lists details of some recent attacks. Since Yousef al-Ramoni was found hanged, 100 Palestinian bus drivers in Jerusalem have quit their jobs.

Collective punishment

14 Nov: A police truck drives through the al-Tur neighbourhood spraying skunk water at four large schools. Skunk water is described as having the smell of faeces and rotting animal carcasses, and it clings to the objects it is sprayed on. The smell is so bad that day that 4,500 children have to stay away from school. Two videos filmed in East Jerusalem show the 'skunk trucks' driving slowly through neighbourhoods, spraying homes, streets, schools, the entire neighbourhood with their foul smell.

19 Nov: The family home of Abdel Rahman al-Shaludi, which houses five children, is demolished in Silwan in a punitive demolition. In October, al-Shaludi drove his car into pedestrians at a tram stop, killing a baby and 22-year-old student. The family's life savings disappear from the house during the demolition. Israeli police ransack seven other apartments in the same building, urinating inside one of them.

1 Dec: Israeli forces demolish a home under construction in al-Isawiya. Israeli special forces and police on horseback storm the neighbourhood before the demolition. A young man is hit in the abdomen with a rubber-coated bullet.

2 Dec: Israeli soldiers raid Shufat refugee camp and the Silwan neighbourhood. In Silwan, the army and officials from an Israeli water company cut off the water supply to several homes. The move is described by a local Palestinian official as 'part of an ongoing collective punishment campaign against Palestinian Jerusalemites.'

3 Dec: UN Resident and Humanitarian Co-ordinator, James Rawley, calls for an end to punitive house demolitions in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Daily – Israeli police block the entrances to neighbourhoods with concrete blocks, residents are detained for hours at checkpoints, drivers are stopped, harassed and fined for non-existent offences. There is constant surveillance as army and police swamp and roam neighbourhoods day and night. Surveillance drones and helicopters observe from the air. Watch the video: 'You don't want us to breathe' The author of the accompanying article asks: 'Is it any wonder why people snap under these conditions?'

Further reading: A week in Jerusalem – What I saw is an apartheid system intended to make life so intolerable for its victims that they leave by John Fearey

'Let the police mow the lawn' – Israeli right wing demands stronger crackdown as Netanyahu increases attacks on East Jerusalem by Dan Cohen

- See more at: http://www.palestinecampaign.org/media-wont-tell-israeli-violence-east-jerusalem/#sthash.Ek1Sevq0.dpuf

What the media won't tell you about East Jerusalem

November 6, 2014

Palestinians in East Jerusalem live their daily lives under the brutality of Israeli occupation. However, their suffering is ignored by most of the western media.

Download our East Jerusalem factsheet

Last week, western journalists turned their focus on Jerusalem only because an Israeli settler, Yehuda Glick, was shot and injured near the Old City on October 29th. However, violence against Palestinians is a constant feature of life in East Jerusalem and it goes unreported by our media. Palestinians in East Jerusalem face expulsion from the city, home demolitions, freedom of movement restrictions, surveillance, and violence from settlers and soldiers. This is in addition to illegal settlement building on their land.

It is through measures such as these – all violations of international law – that Israel is attempting to ethnically cleanse East Jerusalem of its Palestinian population. Israel's stated goal is to establish and maintain the whole of Jerusalem as its capital. On October 23rd, Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu issued a statement reiterating this, saying: 'United Jerusalem, was, and will always remain, the capital of Israel.' He called for Israeli sovereignty to be enforced in all parts of Jerusalem through the deployment of extra troops. Below is a short guide to what life is like for East Jerusalem Palestinians, which aims to fill in the gaps left by media reporting:

Background

Before 1947, all of Jerusalem was Palestinian. Following the UN partition of Palestine that year, the UN designated Jerusalem as an international zone. Israel overran West Jerusalem and established a *de facto* border known as the Green Line, expelling tens of thousands of Palestinians from that part of the city. In 1967, Israel occupied and then annexed East Jerusalem. Israel's occupation and annexation of East Jerusalem is illegal in international law.

Residency permits

Israel has annexed East Jerusalem and claims that it is part of Israel. However, Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, while paying taxes to Israel, do not have Israeli citizenship. They have to apply for residency permits, which need to be frequently renewed. In order to have a permit renewed, Palestinians have to prove to the Israeli authorities that East Jerusalem is their 'centre of life'. This requires the provision of extensive documents, including health insurance and bills going back several years, which many Palestinians do not have. As a result, many Palestinians who have never lived anywhere but East Jerusalem have lost their residency permits. Once deported, they are not allowed to return. Those who have lived away for more than seven years will also have their residency revoked and are not permitted to return.

The Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law bans the entry of Palestinians from the West Bank, Gaza and other designated countries into Israel and East Jerusalem for the purpose of family reunification. This has resulted in spouses being separated from each other and children from their parents. Since 2005, two years after the law was passed, more than 125,000 reunification applications have gone unprocessed. Palestinians living in East Jerusalem who have a child must apply to the Ministry of the Interior for a residency permit for that child. Israel issues the child with a temporary permit that lasts for only two years, and must then be renewed regularly. There are currently around 10,000 Palestinian children living without permits in East Jerusalem, who are consequently denied access to services including education and healthcare. Since 1967, Israel has revoked the residency permits of more than 14,000 East Jerusalem Palestinians. 11,000 of these were revoked between 1995 and 2013.

House demolitions

On November 4th, Israeli forces raided the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Silwan and demolished two family homes. They claimed the houses did not have proper construction permits. Palestinian families live in constant fear of having their homes torn down. Israel has demolished more than 27,000 Palestinian houses in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza since occupying those territories in 1967. There are outstanding demolition orders hanging over tens of thousands more homes. In Silwan, Palestinian homes are being destroyed to make way for an Israeli tourist centre and national park. More than 1,000 Palestinians face losing their homes in Silwan alone. It is almost impossible for Palestinians to receive construction permits from the Israeli authorities. Nearly all applications, which cost £5,000 to register, are refused. But Palestinian families, with no new homes being built for decades in East Jerusalem, need to expand their living space. In desperation, they expand without receiving a permit and then have to live with the stress of hoping their house won't be torn down.

A demolition order, if received, comes with a fine. Israeli police and army accompany the bulldozers, and families are given 15 minutes to get out of their home with as many belongings as possible. They have to pay the cost of the demolition, which runs into thousands of pounds. Those unable to afford the cost can face prison. With 70% of Palestinians in East Jerusalem living below the poverty line, some are forced to demolish their homes themselves. House demolitions lead to families being split up, illness and psychological trauma, especially amongst children. Aid organisations provide tents as temporary accommodation for families who have lost their homes, and the living conditions are harsh.

Palestinians in East Jerusalem neighbourhoods such as Silwan and Sheikh Jarrah protest peacefully every week against the

threats to their communities, but these non-violent protests are mostly ignored in western media reporting.

Settlement building

While Israeli authorities refuse planning permits to Palestinians to extend their homes, every Israeli government since 1967 has engaged in illegal settlement building in East Jerusalem. On October 27th, Netanyahu announced that 1,000 new settlement homes would be built in the occupied city. Around 350,000 Israeli settlers live in illegal settlements in East Jerusalem. Palestinians are banned from living on the settlements which have been built on the land where their neighbourhoods once stood. The strategic construction of the settlements has resulted in East Jerusalem being physically cut off from the rest of the West Bank.

Violence

Palestinians living in East Jerusalem face ferocious and suffocating violence from the Israeli army, police and settlers. Settler violence, which includes attacks on property as well as people, usually goes unpunished. More often than not, it will be overseen by Israeli police or army members. The settlers' illegal activities take many forms. On September 30th, for example, settlers took over seven Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem during the night, evicting the families living there. The settlers were accompanied by Israeli police officers. Right-wing lynch mobs took to the streets of Jerusalem during the summer, not for the first time, looking for Palestinians to attack. Some Palestinian victims were beaten unconscious, with Israeli police either being slow to respond or ignoring the attacks altogether. Palestinians in East Jerusalem face police and army harassment and violence during the course of their daily lives, including at the checkpoints spanning the Apartheid Wall.

Arrest and detention without charge is common, and, in the last four months, Israel has stepped up a campaign of mass arrests against East Jerusalem Palestinians. Since July, Israeli police have arrested more than 900 Palestinians across East Jerusalem, including children. The use of tear gas, skunk water (which smells of rotting flesh), drones and low-flying helicopters against East Jerusalem Palestinians has all been increased in recent months. This week, the situation facing Palestinians in East Jerusalem was described as 'a struggle for survival'.

Al Aqsa

On 4th November, Israel's Housing Minister, Uri Ariel, who is a settler, told an Israeli radio station that he hopes to see a Jewish temple built in place of the Al Aqsa Mosque. He is not alone. Moshe Feiglin, a Likud member of Parliament and also a settler, has repeatedly called for the destruction of the Al Aqsa mosque and the construction of a 'Third Temple' in its place. Feiglin enters the Al Aqsa compound every month, accompanied by other settlers and armed police who keep Palestinians out and prevent them from praying. Many of the settlers are US-born and openly call for extreme violence against Palestinians, including shooting dead Palestinian children. Yehuda Glick, the extremist rabbi who was shot earlier this month, also belongs to a group which advocates for the destruction of the mosque and its replacement with a 'Third Temple'. Glick and his followers regularly storm the mosque compound and roam its courtyards, often guarded by armed police. In 2014 alone, Glick and his group of settlers entered the compound in January, February, twice in June, July and August. Palestinians who attempt to stop the break-ins face arrest. Israeli provocation and violence in relation to Al Aqsa, and the restrictions placed on Palestinians worshipping there, are too frequent and, consequently, too numerous to detail here, but can be found here.

These are incidents in October alone: Israeli soldiers and settlers invaded the yards of the mosque, attacking and injuring worshippers, with gas bombs being thrown by the soldiers (Oct 9th); hundreds of Israeli police raided the compound firing stun grenades, tear gas canisters and rubber-coated steel bullets (Oct 13th); the Israeli army invaded the mosque, firing tear gas and blockading unarmed Palestinians inside. This video shows the attack (Oct 14th). In the preceding weeks, Israeli forces had barred Palestinians from entering the mosque compound and facilitated the entry of right-wing Israeli extremists. And, on 5th November, 300 Israeli soldiers stormed the interior of the mosque, as Palestinians prayed. They were followed by hundreds of Israeli settlers who invaded the compound.

These are not isolated incidents, but are just recent examples of the provocations and violence faced by Palestinians in relation to Al Aqsa which go unreported in the media here. Journalists ignore these attacks, not just when they happen, but have also failed to mention them when reporting on the shooting of Glick, leaving their reports devoid of context and background. Compounded with their inability to provide information about the daily grind of occupation faced by East Jerusalem Palestinians, and the attempts by Israel to force them from the city, their reports can only be described as fundamentally misleading.

- See more at: http://www.palestinecampaign.org/media-wont-tell-east-jerusalem/#sthash.0PC39ucS.dpuf

23.12.2014 Here Lies My Brother

Mohammad Abu Daher was just 16 years old when he was fatally shot with live ammunition by Israeli forces on May 15, 2014. He was a talented soccer player, beloved son and cherished big brother. Mohammad told his father he hoped to study media and journalism at Birzeit University, but did not live long enough to apply.

Mohammad's family and friends were struck hard by his loss. "*Here Lies My Brother,*" a short film produced by DCI-Palestine, attempts to provide a glimpse beyond the headlines to see the impact prolonged military occupation has on Palestinian families. Watch the film here.

We will continue to pursue justice for Mohammad, and demand that all Palestinian children be protected from violence.Together we can raise awareness on the situation of Palestinian children's rights, and grow a movement demanding justice and accountability for Palestinian children.

Brad Parker, International Advocacy Officer and Attorney, Defense for Children International Palestine

Palestine Prisoners 10.12.2014 Take Action: 3 Palestinian community leaders expelled from Jerusalem

Daoud al-Ghoul, Majd Darwish, and Saleh Dirbas, three young Palestinian Jerusalemites, have been deported by the Israeli occupation from their home city of Jerusalem for five months, beginning on 30 November 2014 and ending 30 April 2015. Ghoul, 31, Darwish, 24, and Dirbas, 23, are all former political prisoners, and face imprisonment if any of them violate the order against visiting the city of their birth and their homes. No reason has been given for this arbitrary and unjust order.

The three young men are prominent social activists and community workers. Al-Ghoul, the coordinator of youth programs for the Health Work Committees in Jerusalem and of the Kanaan Network of Palestinian civil society organizations, recently presented at the European Parliament in Brussels on 17 November on the increasingly repressive situation in occupied Jerusalem. He also spoke before an audience at Intal in Brussels on 18 November on the crisis in Jerusalem. **Take action to call on the European Union to pressure Israel to cancel this order and to end the EU-Israel Association Agreement.**

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association noted that this action "is part of the collective political, ethnic and

spatial cleansing policy being implemented against the Palestinian citizens of Jerusalem, and a link in the chain of racist decisions, laws and procedures, particularly the policy of home demolitions and large-scale administrative detention against Jerusalemites, and the adoption of deportation orders that violate the Fourth Geneva Convention and multiple international agreements and its obligations under the United Nations charter."

The Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits individual or collective transfer of persons under occupation from one area of occupied territory to another. This forced expulsion comes following the stripping of Jerusalem ID's of elected Palestinian Legislative Council members Mohammad Abu Tir, Ahmad Atoun, Mohammed Totah and Khaled Abu Arafah; as well as the stripping of the Jerusalemresidency of Nadia Abu Jamal, the widow of Ghassan Abu Jamal. This comes also shortly following the statement of occupation prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu that it plans to seek powers to strip Palestinians who hold Israeli citizenship and Palestinians with Jerusalem ID of their citizenship and residency rights if they or their relatives participate in resistance to the occupation.

It is clearly part of the ongoing Nakba directed against the Palestinian people from 1947 until today, and the systematic expulsion and dispossession of Palestinians at the hands of the occupying power. In particular, Palestinians in Jerusalem are being targeted for ethnic cleansing, expulsion and removal through home demolitions, settler violence and invasions, stripping of residency rights, mass arrests and imprisonment, and land confiscation in a clear bid to erase and negate the Palestinian character of the city and its place as the capital of the Palestinian people. **The expulsion of Daoud al-Ghoul, Majd Darwish, and Saleh Dirbas must be stopped! Take action to defend the rights of these three young community leaders, and the rights of Palestinians in Jerusalem:**

TAKE ACTION
1. Citoyens Solidaires in Belgium has launched a petition in French to EU officials, demanding they take action to pressure Israel to cancel the expulsion order. Click here to sign on:https://www.change.org/p/federica-mogherini-faites-pression-sur-isra%C3%ABl-afin-que-soit-lev%C3%A9-l-ordre-d-expulsion-de-trois-palestiniens-de-j%C3%A9rusalem
2. Demand an end to the EU-Israel Association Agreement. Join over 300 civil society organizations and trade unions to demand "No Association with Occupation!": http://freepalestine.eu/
3. Send our letter to EU officials **and call upon them to take action** to ensure the revocation of the deportation order and impose sanctions on Israel, including the cancellation of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

Abdel-Alim Da'na, 12 more, ordered to administrative detention without charge or trial

Abdel-Alim Da'na, Palestinian political leader and professor, has joined his son in administrative detention, held without charge or trial on secret evidence. Da'na was among 13 prisoners issued administrative detention orders in the first week of December and one of 6 from Hebron. Click here to take action to demand Da'na's release..
Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity
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