

~~Item 7~~

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**BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights**



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ENGLISH ONLY  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Thirtieth Session  
14 September - 02 October 2015

Mr President,

1. ~~BADIL~~ on behalf of the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council, condemns in the strongest possible terms Israel's continued demolition of Palestinian structures inside Area C, and highlights that these demolitions represent material acts upon which a finding of forcible transfer can be based.
2. In August 2015, Israel demolished a total of 57 Palestinian structures in and adjacent to the area known as 'E1' - located between East Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of Ma'ale Adummim - leaving a total of 167 Palestinians (including 101 children<sup>1</sup>) homeless and without shelter during the hottest time of the year.
3. Such demolitions and displacement are underpinned by a legal system geared towards the protection of Israel's own strategic interests, whereby local planning legislation is subject to cynical interpretation or widespread change through a web of Military Orders - introduced in direct contravention of International Humanitarian Law - which strip Palestinian representation from planning and zoning policy in Area C.
4. The purpose of this forced displacement is clearly stated in Israel's 'E1 master plan', which sets out the intended construction of almost 3700 settler housing units in this locality. Accordingly, this process of forcibly transferring the resident Palestinian population, followed by the implantation of Israeli settlers, represents a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention under Article 147, as well as constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity under International Criminal Law.
5. BADIL and the Palestinian Human Rights Organizations Council therefore call upon all relevant actors to apply appropriate legal terminology to the present day reality in the oPt, particularly, identifying that

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<sup>1</sup> B'tselem, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015. 40 Degrees in the Shade: Civil Administration destroys Homes of 48 People in Jordan Valley, including 31 Minors. Available at: [http://www.btselem.org/planning\\_and\\_building/20150818\\_fasayil\\_demolitions](http://www.btselem.org/planning_and_building/20150818_fasayil_demolitions)

Israel's continued demolition of Palestinian structures in Area C and the resulting forced displacement constitute forcible transfer.

6. In addition, we call upon High Contracting Parties to honor their obligation under Common Article 1 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and thus to take all available measures to halt Israel's perpetration of forcible transfer of Palestinians inside the occupied Palestinian territory.