

Urgent Action for Sur Bahir, Wadi al Hummus, July 2019

In the early hours of 22nd July 2019, hundreds of Israeli military and police entered the village of Sur Bahir, Wadi al Hummus, in south east Jerusalem - part of the occupied West Bank. They forcibly removed families from their homes using tear gas, pepper spray, sound bombs and physical force and then began the demolition of up to 10 residential apartment blocks.

Since 2009, the Israeli authorities have demolished, or forced owners to demolish, 69 structures in Sur Bahir. This has resulted in the displacement of 30 households with 400 people displaced or affected by the demolitions - half of them children under 18 years of age. Israeli authorities say the homes are too near the separation barrier, a barrier that Israeli authorities built.

The new demolition orders are for 70 apartments in inhabited, or under construction, buildings. The homes are under the authority of the Palestinian Authority - area A of the Oslo Accord - and all have building permits from the PA. The Israeli court ruled that they can be demolished on the grounds that they are too near the separation barrier. Again the demolitions will forcibly displace Palestinian families, including the elderly and children.

Forcible Transfer of people under occupation is a serious breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The deportation of or transfer of all or parts of the population of the occupied territory, within or outside this territory, constitutes a war crime under Article 8 of the Rome Statute.

“Israel must immediately end its cruel and discriminatory policy of home demolitions and forced displacement.”
*Saleh Hijazi,
 Deputy Middle East and North Africa Director, Amnesty International*

The British government repeatedly condemns Israel’s violations of international law but can no longer stand by while Israel flagrantly ignores it. It is time to take real action. It's time for the UK government to end its complicity in Israel’s systematic violation of Palestinian rights.

Urgent action: Please contact the following:

The Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, and Dr Andrew Murrison, Minister for the Middle East, at: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. Email fcocorrespondence@fco.gov.uk

Your MP and MEPs: via www.writetothem.org.uk

- Tell them: about these demolitions and forcible transfers.
- Ask them: not only to condemn the removal of the Palestinian families, **but to take action** to demand that the Israeli Government immediately reverses its decision and stops the illegal, forced transfer of people and the demolitions.

Ask your Faith leaders to speak out strongly in support of the Palestinian families and against the Israeli Government’s demolitions, their forcible transfers, their violations of international law and the denial of Human Rights.

<https://icahd.org/2019/07/22/a-statement-by-jeff-halper-on-demolitions-in-sue-bahir/>

<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/un-officials-call-israeli-authorities-halt-plans-demolitions-sur-bahir>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/07/israel-continues-policy-of-systematic-forced-displacement-with-wave-of-home-demolitions-in-sur-bahir/>

https://secure.waronwant.org/page/38633/action/1?ea.tracking.id=web&_ga=2.218392923.314171692.1563824955-534939962.1529499622

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wadi-al-hummus-france-germany-spain-and-uk-joint-statement>

More information - Pax Christi - www.paxchristi.org.uk