

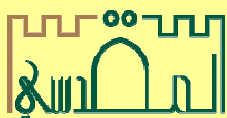
# Newsletter

Second Issue, January 2010

## In this Issue:

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Editorial  | 1  |
| Reactions with the first issue of our newsletter                           | 2  |
| MSD reveals a Jerusalem Municipality map: hundreds of buildings demolition | 3  |
| House demolition: psychological effects and consequences                   | 4  |
| Drugs scourge: reasons, effects and confrontation                          | 5  |
| Settlements growth in East Jerusalem                                       | 6  |
| Suffering story in Jerusalem   | 7  |
| House demolitions: a war crime   | 8  |
| Israel violates Palestinian women's rights in Jerusalem                    | 9  |
| Articles   | 10 |

## Monthly newsletter by:



المفدس للتنمية المجتمعية  
Al-Maqdese for Society Development (MSD)

### Head Office, Jerusalem:

Tel: 972 2 6285918  
972 2 6278997  
Fax: 972 2 628 92 84

### Al-Ram Branch:

Tel: 970 2 234 0116  
970 2 2347077  
Fax: 970 2 2349149

info@al-maqdese.org  
www.al-maqdese.org

## 1. Editorial

*Al-Maqdese* entered the year 2010 with its presence on the first page of *Al-Quds* Newspaper on 01/01/2010. *Al-Maqdese* held an urgent press conference on 31/12/2009 at its Al-Ram office where several satellite channels and local and international media agencies transmitted the conference details. Through the conference, MSD revealed plans and maps by which Jerusalem Municipality plans to demolish hundreds of buildings in Silwan, Al-Bustan and Al-Thouri neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. A lot of organizational and popular reactions were directly received after the conference. Indicating that, the presence and show in media was not, and will not be, the aim of the conference and its tragic topic; the conference came up with the intended results. However, the subject being well known at the national level, and so, those responsible can take actions. Please, see more the complete details in part 3 of this issue.

Through 2009, Palestinians' rights were highly violated by the Israeli Governments in East Jerusalem. All the documented violations are against the international law resolutions, Fourth Geneva Convention articles and against international legitimacy. This means, that Israel doesn't care of the international peace initiatives, or the international community wills towards Palestinians in East Jerusalem. Accordingly, MSD worked on three main programs in 2009: First: MSD and through its legal clinic office in Wadi Al-Joz provided Palestinians, especially in East Jerusalem, with legal services. Number of the provided services reached 10,216 in 2009 aimed to improve their lives conditions, know their rights, and to protect their rights through legal advocacy and mobilization of integrated efforts. Second: through its specialized lawyers, MSD held awareness-raising campaigns for Palestinians in East Jerusalem. In order to raise their awareness of their social, cultural, economic and fundamentals rights. These campaigns were held in all East Jerusalem neighborhoods, at social centers, youth clubs, schools, associations and colleges. Third: with special focus on house demolitions, MSD documented the Israeli violations against Palestinians' rights in the City through its field researchers. Briefly, 104 houses were demolished in 2009, of which 24 were self demolitions!

On the same day of the International Human Rights Day, Jerusalem Municipality announced its intention to demolish 59 houses in East Jerusalem as released in *Hebrew Eroushalaim* newspaper. It mentioned that the finance committee approved an amount of NIS 300,000 on 11/2009 to demolition new buildings. Moreover, the Israeli Authorities started excavations in Al-Omawia palaces area under Al-Aqsa Mosque. Hence, if the Israeli Government continues its racism policies and its strategic plans to violate Palestinians' rights in East Jerusalem, it will undermine any peace initiatives between the two sides. This will accordingly undermine any peace initiatives work on ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the 'two-state solution' which is suggested to establish the Palestinian state on the 1967 lands in order to have two states lives beside each other in peace.

Dear readers, we released the first issue of our newsletter on 10/12/2009 on the occasion of the International Human Rights Day. It's our pleasure to inform you that we today, 19/01/2010, release the second issue while we celebrate with our society the launch event of our "*Reyadah* Anti Drugs Project" to combat drugs scourge in East Jerusalem. In addition to our work in human rights protection, we believe that development is an integrated process. However, we designed *Reyadah* and succeeded in raising its fund so as to empower the society with knowledge and skills and to develop it wherever and whenever there is a need. For more details about *Reyadah*, please see the inner pages.

## **2- Reactions with the first issue of our newsletter**

We released our first newsletter on 10/12/2009, the occasion of the International Human Rights Day (IHRD). In the newsletter editorial, we highlighted the continuous Israeli violations against Palestinians' human rights in East Jerusalem and briefly described how MSD plans to interfere and to decrease Palestinians suffering accordingly. Then MSD listed its vision, mission and activities which are built on MSD's 3-year strategic plan (2010-2012). The newsletter included a section on the negative developments and Israeli violations in East Jerusalem which are documented with statistics and figures depending on MSD's databank. Then, another section described MSD's legal clinic activities, types and numbers of services provided to Palestinians in the City. The newsletter ends with articles from the International Human Rights Laws as a tool to raise Jerusalemites awareness of their rights as issued by the international laws. About its first newsletter, MSD received many positive reactions from local, international and UN organizations through calls, e-mails, faxes and visits. Sample excerpts from these reactions included: (1) "All our family will pray for Palestine and for Palestinian people. Congratulations for your activities and permanent effort to protect your people and to inform the western networks", (2) "Thank you for sharing this important newsletter. Please keep us in the loop and in your mail list", (3) "Your newsletter in English and Arabic is on the Palestinian NGOs Portal, [www.masader.ps](http://www.masader.ps). MSD however promises to do the maximum of its best to meet the expectations of its society, and so, we will monthly release our newsletter and enrich it with latest developments and interesting topics for Jerusalemites and for those interested in the Palestinian issues.

## **3- Al-Maqdese reveals a map issued by the Jerusalem Municipality to demolish hundreds of buildings in East Jerusalem**

*Al-Maqdese* held an urgent press conference at its Al-Ram office on 31/12/2009 in order to disclose serious information regarding Jerusalem Municipality plans for the future of Palestinians in East Jerusalem. MSD revealed in the conference a map issued by the Jerusalem Municipality on 28/12/2009. By this, the Municipality plans to demolish hundreds of Palestinian residency buildings in Silwan and other neighborhoods as Al-Bustan and Al-Thouri in East Jerusalem. The map

highlighted 312 residency buildings in East Jerusalem that are threatened with demolition by Jerusalem Municipality. It shows a yellow circle highlights Al-Bustan Area near Silwan southern Al-Aqsa Mosque indicating that the area is subjected to demolition. As a result, 88 residency buildings will be demolished, and so, 1000 Palestinians will consequently be displaced. Also, the map shows other residency buildings threatened with demolition in Wadi Hilwa and Al-Thouri neighborhoods.

The map shows a red circle highlights Silwan neighborhood, in this area there is an Israeli building called "Beit Yonatan". It is a 7-floor illegal building which has no building permit indicating that it was deviated from the local outline plan of the City. The outline plan permits only building up to 2 floors. Accordingly, many demolition orders have been issued to demolish Yonatan building but they were not implemented up to now<sup>1</sup>. Instead, it received constant police protection. Recently, Jerusalem Municipality issued a new outline plan in order to legalize the Yonatan illegal building where this plan will give building permits up to 4 floors instead of 2 in the building area.

Moreover, the map used Jewish names instead of the famous and well-known Arabic ones for areas in East Jerusalem. For instance, Silwan was named "Air David", Wadi- Hilwa was named "Kfar Hshelwah" and Al-Bustan was named "Gad Hmealakh".

This clearly insures the Israeli Governments' racism actions and the continuation of its ethnic cleansing and collective punishment policy towards Palestinians in Jerusalem. Moreover, the demolitions will be implemented at any time as the Municipality approved the plan.

Mr. Tahir An-Nammari, *Al-Maqdese* Supervisory Committee Chairman, called the Arab States League, international community and United Nations Organizations to interfere so as to stop all kinds of Israeli Authorities ethnic policies they apply in East Jerusalem

---

1: In January 2007, the Jerusalem Civil Court for local Affairs ordered the house to be sealed. Since then, the case moved through all the instances of the court system and they all upheld the ruling. Since July, 2008 there has been an "active order", i.e., a court order that the municipality executes immediately. Judge G. Canfy-Steinitz of the Jerusalem District Court rejected the appeal, and the defendants were not allowed to appeal to the Supreme Court. But the demolition orders haven't carried out yet.

which clearly violate the international laws and conventions.

#### **4- House demolition: psychological effects and consequences**

As *Al-Maqdese* is a socio-civic organization (legal-social-cultural) addressing Israeli violations in East Jerusalem especially house demolitions and its consequences, we found it very important to highlight the psychological effects of house demolitions on Palestinians where children are the most affected by such actions. The study "Broken Homes: Addressing the Impact of House Demolitions on Palestinian Children and Families"<sup>2</sup> addresses the impact of house demolitions on Palestinians children and families, of which the psychological effects is a major part.

Information was collected from 59 families whose houses were demolished by the Israeli military forces through the period 2000-2006, except two families whose houses were demolished prior to that period.

Number of children in these families were 106 (61 male and 45 female), at the 5-18 age group. These demolitions displaced 44 of the 59 surveyed families where they never returned to their original residences up to now. Families who returned spent over a year displaced before their return.

Major survey findings: (1) Families' adolescents feel less coherent with their family members than their peers; (2) They feel their family events and ways of life less comprehensible and more difficult to be managed; (3) Almost 80% of children who witnessed the demolition of their houses and who don't, seriously affected in the course of their mental, physical and psychological health.

Several symptoms observed on children in the test, and the symptoms noticed are as the following:

1. Withdrawal preferring: where children prefer remaining alone or staying quiet in the presence of others. Child says: "*I do not like to hear the voices of children; I love to stay by myself and to sleep*".
2. Somatic complaints: such as dizziness, pain in various parts of the body, and problem in breathing without a clear reason. Child says: "*I feel that I'm suffocating*".
3. Anxiety and depression: children tend to cry more, afraid going to school, feel that they are not loved, and feel guilty,

2: Welfare Assassination, Save the Children UK and Palestinian Counseling Center. Broken Homes: Addressing the Impact of House Demolitions on Palestinian Children and Families. 2009

nervous and under tense. Child says: "*My heart turned into a black color*".

4. Social problems: children suffer from social problems such as, but not limited to: difficulty in creating friendships with other children; they are extremely attached to adults and have age inappropriate behaviors.
5. Delusions and obsessions: exhibit delusional, obsessive, compulsive, and psychotic thoughts. Child says: "*I took photos of the house on my mobile and keep replaying it to see it falling I like to see it because it reminds me of that house*".
6. Attention difficulties: have less time in concentrating than other children; they are hyperactive, without motivations, easily confused, quick in losing focus and daydreamers. Child says: "*I study and study, but in the exam when the teacher asks me I forget*".
7. Delinquency: they prefer accompanied with trouble makers, lairs and thieves without showing any kind of remorse.
8. Violent behavior: they do not respond to others requests at home or school, destroy their properties and of others, act brusquely with others, fight frequently in order to get others attention. Child says: "*I shout and beat my brothers and sisters; I was not like this in the past*".
9. Bedwetting: they do it at night and morning. Child says: "*I haven't any control on myself*".
10. Other symptoms: such as, thumb sucking and inappropriate sexual behavior.

#### **5- Drugs scourge: reasons, effects, and confrontation in the Palestinian community**

The Palestinian communities in Gaza Strip and West Bank, especially Jerusalem District, face an increase in drugs abuse. PCBS statistics show that there are 80,000 addicts and drugs users in the Palestinian cities. Moreover, the latest statistics show that there are 20,000 persons abusing drugs in Jerusalem District of which 6,000 are addicts and 14,000 are users.<sup>3</sup>

This huge number of addicts and users in Jerusalem District is attributable to the following major reasons:

1. Existence of the Israeli occupation in the district cities and suburbs.

3: PCBS. Rapid Appraisal Study. 2006, Ramallah, Palestine. (Study for the benefit of UN).

2. The difficulty in issuing and applying legislations and laws in the district in order to confront drugs.
3. Limitation of effective methods to work for decreasing drugs abuse and smuggling.
4. Shortage in financial and human resources to face and decrease drugs spread and to rehabilitate and treat addicts.
5. Limited cooperation and networking between organizations and official bodies working in this field.

Number of drugs and alcoholic abusers increases rapidly, it spreads between the different community regardless their levels, ages and even gender. Drugs always result in negative and devastating effects and consequences on individuals, groups and community. It leaves several diseases and social, psychological, economical problems. According to published statistics, drugs abuse spread significantly between youth of 13-22 age groups and in many cases among 9 years age children<sup>4</sup>. In order to, protect people from the scourge negative effects and decrease its rapid spread in the district, it is very essential and indispensable to carry out several awareness and guidance programs in the City.

To empower and develop the Palestinian community especially in Jerusalem for drugs confrontation, all efforts from all are needed in integration and concentration. Implementation of several programs to fight against drugs reasons, effects, consequences and results is also essential. Consequently, MSD raised fund for establishing its 'Reyadah Anti-Drugs Center'. We cooperate with Jerusalem Governorate/ PNA (Palestinian National Authority) in many aspects for fighting drugs. In addition to other activities, the project includes an anti-drugs center to act in the confrontation of drugs in Jerusalem District through awareness-raising and guidance tools besides, also, other activities.

## **6- Settlements growth in East Jerusalem**

Israel pursues racism policies towards Palestinians especially in East Jerusalem since 1967. This includes, for instance, planning policy, house demolitions, appropriation of land, displacement, ID withdrawal...etc. For a certain period of time Israeli authorities succeeded in using media to justify their racism actions for the World. But after a while, the World recognized the real

4: Previous reference.

Israeli policies and what is really happening on the land. Accordingly, the position of the European Union and its official bodies changed towards Palestine especially East Jerusalem. This new position depends also on the Security Council issued resolutions. Such as, the 242 resolution/1967 considers occupation of lands after the 1967 war is illegal including East Jerusalem. Moreover, the 478 resolution/1980, considered the Israeli law declared Jerusalem to be Israeli's "eternal and indivisible" capital is null and void and required that it be rescinded forthwith while affirming that it was a violation of international law.

The Security Council resolutions were violated by the Israeli Governments. Besides, their violation to the Fourth Geneva Convention articles by forcing Palestinian to emigrate from East Jerusalem through the pursued policies. Where the main reason of that is to bring more Jewish and settle them in the City as planned in the Jerusalem 2000 Master Plan<sup>5</sup>. As EJ File Officer at the Municipality declared that they plan to bring more settlers to the City to face the Palestinian demographic problem, to displace them. Accordingly, Israel appropriated more than 35% of the Palestinian land in East Jerusalem and allocated other 37% as green areas. Where, the number of settlers is 210,000 distributed in 18 settlements inside the City.

This colonization activity is used by the Israeli governments in East Jerusalem in order to change the demographical situation in the City and to complicate the Palestinian options and, however, make the Palestine State option impossible. Accordingly, Jewish are now the majority in the City (750,000 corresponding to 75%), while Palestinians are (250,000, around 25%). Also, they focus on the Old City where the holy places for Christians and Muslims are located to separate them from other areas in East Jerusalem. Moreover, building settlements around East Jerusalem increased rapidly lately in order to isolate the City from other Palestinian cities in the West Bank. Lately, the Israeli authorities plan to build new settlements in Sh'fat and in Al-Tour (Beit Ourt).

Several settler organizations such as *Ateret Kohanem* support colonization activities in East Jerusalem by taking over buildings and houses illegally in every neighborhood in the City. This really happens under the Israeli governments' protection which facilitates

5: For more information please see: <http://www.al-maqdese.org/arabic/index.php?page=alquds>



these organizations' activities as they help in implementing their settlement strategic plans with continuous support from settlement godfather (Moscovic).

Israel is ongoing in its settlement plans in East Jerusalem, without concerning or respecting the Security Council resolutions, the international conventions and charts, the European Union latest position. This shows that the Israeli governments behave above law with no respect.

### **7- Suffering story in Jerusalem: Mr. S.T. Family**

Humans in East Jerusalem experience all kinds of injustice practices that no one experienced at any place in the World. Jerusalem Municipality imposed *Arnona* (accommodation tax) on Mr. S.T. The family of Mr. T. lives in a metal tin house in Al-Isawiya neighborhood in East Jerusalem after the Municipality demolished his house twice in Shu'fat Refugees Camp.

Although he left the house a few months before the demolition, the Municipality surprisingly sent the *Arnona* bill to Mr. S.T. to pay for the period after the second demolition (2009-2010) while the family wasn't at the house. They left the house to protect and overcome the potential intentional destruction of their properties again as happened in the first destruction.

The Municipality demolished the house for the first time on 17/07/2007, where the house area was only 48 m<sup>2</sup>. It was demolished while Mr. T. and his family weren't at the house which shocked them strongly because it was the only place for them to live in. Moreover, most of their stuffs destroyed under the rubble as they didn't have the chance to take any of them out before the demolition.

One of the organizations helped Mr. S.T. to rebuild his house in the same area and over the same area. But, after a year, the Municipality demolished the house for the second time under the pretext of lack of permits considering that getting building permits in East Jerusalem and very difficult. Also, the Municipality tried to enforce him to demolish his house by himself or they will impose him other fines (as destruction fees). Accordingly, he left the house and bought a small land in Al-Isawiya where he built the metal tin house in which he currently lives with his family.

Mr. S.T. suffering is continuous where he is a father of seven children. Five of them live with him in difficult living conditions as he is the only breadwinner for the family.

### **8- House demolitions policy in Occupied Jerusalem is a war crime and a crime of persecution against humanity**

The house demolitions and evictions that the Israeli authorities, occupying authority, plan and apply in Occupied Jerusalem is a war crime and a crime of persecution against humanity. We'll focus a light through *Al-Maqdese* newsletter pages, in several sequential coming issues, on this sever crime from several aspects. The next part (part 1), the first part of the demolition topic, introduces the topic through a brief historic summary.

#### **Part 1: Preamble**

In 1948, the Israeli occupying forces displaced around 750,000 Palestinians, and vehemently destroyed Palestinian farms and villages within the 1948 borders in an attempt to eliminate any proof of Arab ownership and cultural background. It methodically seized Palestinian houses and properties; and repopulated them with Israelis, and established the state of Israel on illegally confiscated land.

This was only the beginning of an ongoing demolition policy that the Israeli Governments has been illegally implementing in the occupied territories; especially within the city of Jerusalem; ruthlessly demolishing 350 houses and buildings in Jerusalem during 2003-2004 alone. The Israeli government is an occupying force that applies its sovereignty on confiscated land, openly violating UN resolutions and laws. It comes as no surprise that its demolition policy is again in blatant opposition to the provisions of international and humanitarian law and the criteria set forth in the human rights conventions and charters; since the destruction is not justified by military necessity and clearly violates the right of Palestinians to adequate housing and property ownership.

The Government continuously justifies its demolition policy in Jerusalem by either stating that Palestinian homeowners do not have building permits, or citing security issues. Whereas in the majority of cases where houses were demolished due to alleged "security offences," it was proven that the owners of these houses were not involved in any of these "offences."

This discriminatory policy is also systematically applied and carried out with the endorsement and support of the Israeli Supreme Court, which has repeatedly justified these demolitions and unflinchingly provided legal bases for them.

We believe that this policy should be condemned as a discriminatory policy for collective punishment in light of the anguish it causes: affecting families, owners and residents, and causing them unjustifiable suffering, as well as blatantly violating their basic human rights.

### **9- Israel violates Palestinian women's rights in Jerusalem**

Palestinian women rights are violated daily by the Israeli authorities in East Jerusalem and the areas around. Not only on the check points around the city (where some women died while they delivered their babies), or inside East Jerusalem streets and neighborhoods but also inside their houses. They witness all kind of violations especially eviction and displacement as results from demolitions and appropriation of lands and houses. For that, we here mention Mrs. Rifka Al-Kurd story who live in Al-Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem. She is an old woman in seventies years old; lives with her daughter after the court issued an order

which forced her to leave her house since 9 years under the pretext that some settlements have documents prove their ownership of the house. After the mid night of 27/11/2009, Israeli settlers attacked Mrs. R.K. house at 2:00 am. They attacked Mrs. R.K. where she was injured and her daughter who was shocked. They were then taken to hospital. Besides that, they damaged and threw out their furniture and properties outside the house. After this incident and as they lost their only place for living, Mrs. R.K. and her daughter live in bad psychological conditions as the symptoms of the trauma observed on them. However, Israel doesn't respect or even think of international conventions which secure protection for women in war time, such as, CEDAW, Istanbul Framework, and Beijing Declaration and so on. So, women in East Jerusalem live in hard psychological, physical and financial situations. As the Israeli violations toward Palestinians women rights continue, there will be other parts for the suffering stories.....



Mrs. Rifka Al-Kurd and her daughter after the Israeli settlers forced them evacuate their house after the midnight of 27/11/2009 (at 02:00 AM).

## **10- Articles**

### **10.1. Universal declaration of human rights 1948**

#### Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

#### Article 17 (2)

No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

#### Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

### **10.2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights 1966**

Part I, Article 1: 3. The States Parties to the present Covenant, including those having responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories, shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Part III, Article 12: 1. Everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence.

4. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of the right to enter his own country.