

SOCIAL FORUM HABITAT III 2016

Palestine



SITUATION IN OCCUPIED PALESTINE

RIGHT TO HOUSING

A first draft Palestinian constitution will emerge in 1948, but it will soon be set aside on the Jordanian and Egyptian pressure. After several attempts, it was not until 2002 that Palestine has its own constitution, with a preamble of thanking several Arab friends and relatives.

The current Constitution does not mention the right to housing.

FORCED EVICTIONS

The association "Lawyers Without Borders" (ASF) reports that since the Israeli occupation and annexation of East Jerusalem in 1967 until today, the families of Palestinian refugees have been the target of forced evictions (expropriation or travel).

This situation is contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits any action on the part of the occupying force to deport or transfer parts of its own population into the occupied territories.

But as regards East Jerusalem, the Israeli government has taken such action. Israel does not respect its obligations under international law and is an integral part of the settlement policy in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

Source : Housing Rights of Palestinians in east Jerusalem are not being respected Website Avocats Sans Frontières, 2011

Another aspect highlighted by the report focuses on how the evictions take place. Thus, the Israeli police who attends evictions and demolitions of homes belonging to Palestinians is present disproportionately blocking roads and making use of a force quite useless to expel the families affected. "When they [the IDF] came to evict us, it was as if we were in a war zone," says a Palestinian woman in the delegation. "It was four o'clock in the morning. Immediately, settlers have occupied our house, using our personal things." Result : the deportees are homeless and do not receive any aid from the Israeli occupation authorities. Source : Website Avocats Sans Frontières, 2011

The number of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is about 3 million. **The scale of evictions is also incredible : only in 2013, 604 structures were destroyed by the Israeli army !** Or 804 Palestinians were driven from their homes in one year and at least 1,600 others have been affected by the demolitions ! Israeli settlers destroy Palestinian property still enjoy virtual impunity. In Cisjordanie, the army demolished several homes and water tanks. Tents have been dismantled several times, including in villages completely destroyed. Source : Amnesty International 2013

This has "naturally" led people to flee these areas to seek refuge elsewhere. This is why there are many Palestinian refugee camps. In Lebanon, for example, which are well known to Mar Elias, or Rashidiyyeh or Shatila camps. In 2013, 200 to 400 000 is the estimated number of refugees only in Palestine. Source : Kamel Doraï, Urbanisation et ségrégation des camps de réfugiés palestiniens au Liban, Website Migrinter, 2013.

The refugees camps are not only the result of the demolitions and evictions, but rather of the war of 1948. (Source : Regional Council for the Unrecognized Bedouin Villages)



SITUATION OF EVICTIONS AND DEMOLITIONS INSIDE ISRAEL

Evictions – quantitatively :
There is 120,000 residents in the unrecognized villages. Within this community, there are 1000 homes demolished every year ! Of them over 50% are children. Women are just over half the adult population.

Evictions causes of the problem :
The Bedouin in the Israeli Negev (south – desert) are the indigenous people of the region. the Government of Israel has been refusing to recognize their villages since the creation of the state in 1948. therefore there is no official way to receive building permits, and all homes built are under the threat of demolitions. The people re-build their homes made of the cheapest construction materials, and are once more under the threat of demolitions. The state logic behind this is for the bedouin to give up their way of life, their communities, the land as a resource and their villages and accept the government's wish for them to move into the poor concentration towns built by the government.

Evictions – consequences :
People are focused on keeping their home and are not able to work towards a better status in the society – children > women have not the opportunity to go to school or have a world outside their home – violence (bulldozers with a large police force and people are often arrested)

Source : Regional Council for the Unrecognized Bedouin Villages (RCUV)



Photo : Migreupe



Photo : Migreupe



Photo : L'express Sysya, Bedouin village that resist

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