

Palestinian Homes Demolished in Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley

Written by - [17 - 23 August] - Ref.: 81/2015
Saturday, 29 August 2015 09:15



On 17 and 19 August, Israeli forces demolished at least 30 Palestinian-owned residential and animal structures in Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley.

These demolitions included 14 homes and four animal barracks in four Bedouin communities in Al-Khan Al-Ahmar and Z'ayyem, located to the east of Jerusalem. The demolitions, which took place on 17 August, affected and displaced at least 86 Palestinians, many of whom are children. This is the only area wherein Bedouins near Jerusalem are still residing; as Israeli authorities transferred other Bedouins from the rest of their habitual areas.

On 19 August, Israeli forces demolished a residential building under construction in Wadi Al-Joz, Jerusalem because it lacked a building permit. The Totah and Totanji families constructed the building for their children to live in. The Israeli Civil Administration issued a stop-building order six months ago. The case was then transferred to the municipality court in Jerusalem. On 15 July 2015, the court ordered that the owners pay a fine of 550,000 shekels (approximately USD 139,664) and attain a building permit within a year. The two conditions are almost impossible to fulfil: the fine was prohibitively expensive and unaffordable, and the land on which the building is constructed is classified as 'green land' by the Israeli authorities, where construction is not allowed. The two families effectively had no option but to wait for the demolition to take place.

On Tuesday 18 August, Israeli forces demolished six residential structures, wherein 40 people from the Bedouin community resided, the bathrooms connected to the homes, and four animal barracks in Fasayel in the central Jordan Valley area. Water and electricity networks were also demolished. On the same day, Israeli forces demolished a storage room, a kitchen, and a balcony in Jericho.

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