

DIPLOMATIC BRIEFING, 7 MARCH 2018 – YABOUS CULTURAL CENTER, JERUSALEM
“EMBOLDENING FULL ANNEXATION: THREE MONTHS SINCE THE TRUMP DECLARATION ON JERUSALEM”



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

In 1948, 80,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled from their homes in West Jerusalem by Zionist paramilitary forces. Seventy years later, Israel has continued to alter the character, status, and demographic composition of Jerusalem, forcibly transferring Palestinians from the city in order to illegally impose facts on the ground with the potential of becoming irreversible. Following Israel's occupation and unlawful annexation of East Jerusalem in 1967, successive Israeli Governments have pursued policies to ensure an Israeli-Jewish demographic majority through colonisation and the “silent transfer” of Palestinians from Jerusalem. Since 1967, Israel has used a variety of methods to reduce the Palestinian population of East Jerusalem, continuing to gradually eliminate Palestinian presence in the city, including by:

- i. Revoking the residency status of Palestinians in East Jerusalem;
- ii. Expropriating land and property, denying building permits, and demolishing houses of Palestinians in a systematically discriminatory manner;
- iii. Severely restricting family unification and child registration for Palestinians in East Jerusalem;
- iv. Physically isolating East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, in part by building the Annexation Wall;
- v. Suppressing Palestinian resistance and steadfastness through a range of measures, including collective punishment; and
- vi. Creating unbearable living conditions that may amount to coercive environments for Palestinians in Jerusalem, including by de-developing the Palestinian economy.

These measures not only violate the status of Jerusalem under international law but further lead to the unlawful forcible transfer of Palestinian civilians from occupied East Jerusalem, constituting a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and a war crime punishable by the International Criminal Court.

Accordingly, we call on the international community and Third States to:

1. Abide by their obligations as third States not to recognise as lawful Israel's changes to Jerusalem, and reject the United States' recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital;
2. Exert pressure on Israel to suspend and repeal all bills and legislation seeking to illegally alter the character, status, and demographic composition of the city of Jerusalem;

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3. Condemn Israeli policies aimed at forcibly transferring Palestinians, specifically from East Jerusalem, and end impunity for international crimes, including forcible transfer, committed in the OPT;
4. Exert pressure on Israel's Minister of Interior to cease all procedures of punitive residency revocation, put an end to the illegal criteria of allegiance imposed on Palestinians from East Jerusalem to maintain their residency status, and reinstate all revoked residency statuses;
5. Exert pressure on Israel to immediately halt the demolition and sealing of Palestinian houses, including on punitive grounds, and the forced eviction of Palestinians in Jerusalem, in line with its obligations under international law;
6. Exert pressure on the Israeli Government to reject the newly proposed bill, which would allow for a legal basis to unlawfully revoke East Jerusalem residencies on the ground of "breach of loyalty";
7. Exert pressure on Israel to dismantle its settlement enterprise, including in and around East Jerusalem, and to cease any further settlement construction or expansion, which tends to alter the character of the OPT, including East Jerusalem;
8. Exert pressure on Israel to dismantle the Annexation Wall and its associated regime, as per the 2004 Opinion of the International Court of Justice;
9. Exert pressure on Israel to immediately cease all violations of the right to movement of Palestinians within the OPT, including movement in, to, and from East Jerusalem;
10. Abide by their obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions to:
 - a. Take practical measures to stop providing assistance or support to Israel until it complies with its obligations under international law; and
 - b. Activate universal jurisdiction mechanisms to provide effective penal sanctions, including prosecuting current and previous Israeli Ministers of Interior, and anyone responsible for planning and executing the forcible transfer of Palestinians from East Jerusalem, before their national courts;
11. Cooperate with the International Criminal Court in its preliminary examination into the situation in Palestine since 13 June 2014;
12. Cooperate to bring to an end Israel's fifty-year occupation and impose criminal and economic sanctions on Israel for its continued violations of international law in the OPT.