



Human Rights Day 2016 – Stand up for Someone’s Rights

10 December 2016 - On this day we commemorate the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Together we call on people across the world to stand for more humanity and take action for rights in their daily lives. Together we can defend and promote humanity wherever we are. Messages of intolerance and hatred are spread by people who seek power, deploying twisted logic and false promises, and fabricating outright lies. We must draw the line – and we can. There is another way. It starts with all of us taking practical steps to reaffirm our common humanity.

The Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (CCPRJ) urges you to **stand up for the rights of Palestinians**. It has been almost 50 years since the illegal annexation of East Jerusalem. Persecution of Palestinians through systematic and severe deprivation of human rights and forced transfer are **serious violations of international law**. Carried out with the intention to maintain and expand Jewish-Israeli domination or “Israelization”, they are indicative of **a system of apartheid and colonialism**.

The legal framework Israel uses to implement its discriminatory policies against Palestinians in East Jerusalem remains in force until today and includes:

- Land confiscation, control of housing, building permits, home demolitions and eviction
At least one third of the Palestinian land has been expropriated. Even where Palestinians still own land, they cannot build on it. Under the pretext of “urban planning”, Israel restricts Palestinian development to 13% of housing in the area of East Jerusalem.
- Restrictions to access and movement and residency rights
Since the early 1990s, the more than 4 million occupied Palestinians outside Jerusalem have been denied free access to the city from the West Bank. Palestinians in Jerusalem are considered permanent residents, effectively treating them as “foreigners” in their own city, subjected to deportation and residency revocation if they cannot sufficiently prove their ties to the city.
- Targeting the Palestinian national identity through “Israelization” or “de-Palestinization”
Palestinians in Jerusalem are systematically denied adequate public housing, health, and education services. The facilities lack sufficient quality and in addition they are not allowed to exercise their national identity. Israeli authorities deprive East Jerusalem youth of the right to learn about their history, heritage and identity as Palestinians by imposing censorship on Palestinian school books, and by exerting pressure on Palestinian schools to adopt the Israeli curriculum. Many Palestinian institutions have been ordered to close since 2001 under the pretexts of security and affiliation with the PA.

We have long called on the international community to hold Israel, as the Occupying Power, accountable for its violations of international law. Lack of action by the international community in exercising its third state responsibility to protect human rights encourages Israel to continue these violations. The United Nations and members states, therefore, share responsibility for the deteriorating human rights situation of Palestinians in East Jerusalem because of their failure to recognize and address the systematic violations of international law inherent to the Israeli system of occupation, settler colonialism, and apartheid that has oppressed Palestinians for decades.

Stand up for someone's rights today. Stand up for the rights of Palestinians!

CCPRJ therefore calls upon the entire international community to give a protective response and:

- As an individual, wherever you are in the world, to call upon your government to take action by putting pressure on Israel to stop nearly 50 years of occupation and the suffering of the Palestinian people;
- Recognize that Israel, with the serious violations of IHL and IHRL carried out for course of decades, is not acting as a “normal” temporary occupying power, but practising colonialism and apartheid;
- Assume international responsibility to cooperate to end colonialism and apartheid, in addition to non-recognition/assistance, and adopt effective measures for this purpose;
- Hold Israel accountable for its settlement policy and recall that Israel's occupation, including its illegal annexation of East Jerusalem, amounts to serious violations of IHL and IHRL;
- Condemn Israel's violations of international law, foremost those that rise to the level of war crimes and crimes against humanity; and accordingly
- Call for sanctions against Israel at the UN Security Council.