

46th Regular Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Item 9 - Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance

Follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Oral Intervention of: Adalah – The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel.

Speaker: Ms. Soheir Asaad

Madam President,

In May 2019, the Israel Land Authority requested a court order to forcibly displace the entire Palestinian Bedouin village of Ras Jraba in order to expand the primarily-Jewish city of Dimona.

Despite Israel's attempt to portray them as "invaders" or "trespassers", the people of Ras Jraba, Palestinian citizens of Israel, have lived on their land in the Naqab area for generations, before Dimona came into existence.

The case of Ras Jraba mirrors that of the Palestinian Bedouin village of Umm Al-Hiran. Israel's Supreme Court approved the demolition of Umm Al-Hiran in 2015 to make way for a new, Jewish-only town named Hiran. In January 2017, during a state home demolition operation, a 50-year-old teacher, Ya'akub Abu-Al-Qi'an, was killed by police violence.

These cases are not exceptional, but part of Israel's policy of forced displacement on both sides of the Green Line, from the Naqab to the villages like Khan al-Ahmar and Susya in the occupied West Bank.

Throughout the Naqab, Israel is "urgently" planning to evict 36,000 Palestinian Bedouin citizens from their homes in unrecognized villages, to make way for "economic development projects", in an example of development-induced displacement.

Adalah urges this Council and Member States to fulfil their duties and hold Israel accountable for these violations and demand an end to Israel's forced displacement of Palestinians.