

**To: H.E. Mrs Maite Nkoana-Mashabane**

**Minister of International Relations and Cooperation**

**South Africa**

**Jerusalem 23/8/2010**

**Your Excellency,**

We are the Palestinian citizens of Jerusalem, and the elected representatives of the Palestinian society in the PLC since January 2006, and the Former Minister of Jerusalem Affairs in the Palestinian government, request the immediate action of The South African Government by stopping the Israeli measures aiming to expel us from our city, Jerusalem.

Israel, the Occupying Power, in contravention of its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, decided to banish us from our city. This act is another repugnant expression of the Israeli policy of "ethnic cleansing" in the occupied territories. Israel aims to evacuate as much as possible of Palestinians, Muslims and Christians, in order to realize its "exclusive policy for Israelization of Jerusalem.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 799 dated December 18, 1992, part 2 *"Reaffirms the applicability of the Fourth Geneva convention of 12 August 1949 to all the Palestinian Territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, and affirms that deportation of civilians constitutes a contravention of its obligations under the Convention."*

We, Mohammed Abu Teir, Ahmad Attoun, Mohammed Toutah, and Khaled Abu Arafah, were elected to the Palestinian Legislative council in full accordance with agreements between Israel and the PLO and the International Community. Those elections were applauded by the whole world as a model of Democracy, credibility and transparency. We didn't violate any laws, and certainly did nothing to warrant extirpation from our natural homeland, the city of our birth.

The 43 years of Israeli military occupation of the West Bank including Jerusalem is the longest occupation in recent history. This occupation must be ended.

The world cannot remain silent while Israel annihilates the national existence of the Palestinian People from Jerusalem, demolishes homes, confiscates land and properties, builds settlements, imposes siege, and constructs walls and military check points around Jerusalem, and plan to expel people from their homes to nowhere inside and outside the city.

Last month, Israel approved a plan to demolish 22 Palestinian homes in the Arab neighborhood of Silwan in Jerusalem. The demolitions are part of a larger plan to

destroy hundreds of Palestinian homes in the densely populated Palestinian neighborhood.

We started an Open Ended Sit-In since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2010 in the ICRC headquarter in Jerusalem, which is the 1st since Israeli Occupation of Jerusalem in 1967, and we determined to stay in the ICRC in Jerusalem until the Israeli Authorities cancel the illegal deportation decision and return our ID documents and residency rights.

**In light of the above**

- The facts on the ground and the daily evidences you monitor in occupied Jerusalem
- The daily atrocities and humiliation committed by the occupying power against our people
- The systemic confiscation of land, demolishing houses, and to seize and take possession of Palestinian homes
- The systemic confiscation of Identity Cards
- The deportation of Jerusalemites

**We urge you;**

1. **To intervene** immediately to stop our deportation and any others from Jerusalem.
2. **To intervene** Immediately to stop Israeli illegal policies in occupied Jerusalem.

**Muhammad Abu Teir , Ahmad Attoun , Muhammad Toutah , Khaled Abu Arafah**