



We, the Jerusalem Human Rights Consortium, including the Society of Saint Yves, the Jerusalem Legal Aid Centre (JLAC), the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC), the Arab Centre for Alternative Planning (ACAP) and the EuroMed Rights (EMR), are writing you to express our grave concern and to urge immediate action to address the rapidly deteriorating situation for Palestinians in East Jerusalem and in the West Bank.

As highlighted by the [recent thematic report by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (OHCHR) on Israel's discriminatory administration of the occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem, since the outset of Israel's war on Gaza – where the [ceasefire is clearly failing](#) – the human rights and humanitarian situation of the Palestinian population has [continued to deteriorate](#), marked by rising casualties, intensified settler violence, and more displacement. Such deterioration has increasingly accelerated at the beginning of this year, and even more with the start of the Israeli-US war on Iran and Israeli war on Lebanon. The recent approval of the [discriminatory death penalty law](#) by the Israeli parliament, which would apply the capital punishment only against Palestinians – in a context characterized by the [systematic use of torture](#) by Israeli authorities – is just the latest example of the escalation of Israeli's apartheid system targeting the Palestinian population. Such measure shall be seen within an overall context where every aspect of the lives and rights of Palestinians is deeply affected, as illustrated in the briefing that you find here enclosed.

We would like to bring in particular your attention to the situation in **East Jerusalem**, where **extrajudicial killings, large-scale demolitions and forced displacement** have escalated. **Checkpoints and closures** are severing the city from its Palestinian hinterland, isolating communities from their social, cultural, economic and religious life and undermining their rights to self-determination and development. Punitive policing and systematic interference with freedom of worship are designed to coerce Palestinians to leave. [As stressed by UN experts](#), these measures are components of a systematic project of demographic engineering and domination to entrench exclusive Jewish control. These policies are undermining ongoing international efforts aimed at stabilization and the advancement of peace in the region: as stressed by UN experts, [peace cannot coexist with annexation and oppression](#).

We count on your engagement to **take urgent action to address the situation in East Jerusalem and the West Bank**, in particular by **calling on Israeli authorities** to:

- **Bring to an end its unlawful presence in the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as rapidly as possible**, in line with the [latest resolution of the UN Human Rights Council](#), including by **ceasing immediately all new settlement activities and evacuating all settlers** from the Occupied Palestinian

Territory, and to respect the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, in line with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) [Advisory Opinion](#). Victims of human rights violations as results of such policies and practices should be granted full reparation.

- **Immediately take steps to repeal all systems of laws, policies and practices that create or perpetuate discrimination against Palestinians** in the unlawfully occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, based on race, religion or ethnic origin, and in particular to dismantle all settlements and the associated regime, which have resulted in oppression and domination of the Palestinians that may amount to racial segregation and apartheid, taking into account recommendations made by United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). To this end, Israeli authorities shall also **immediately repeal the recently adopted discriminatory death penalty law**, as [requested by the EU High Representative for Foreign Policy](#) and several EU member states.
- **Stop demolitions of Palestinian buildings, forced evictions and displacements of Palestinians, revocation of residency permits in Jerusalem and dispossession of Palestinian land.** To this end, Israeli authorities should also **reverse their decision to amend the land registration and property acquisitions procedures**, and any other policies aimed at taking over Palestinian land, **including** the further development of the **E1 Settlement Project**.
- **Urgently take steps to end killing and injury of Palestinians** during operations in the occupied West Bank and ensure that the use of force is in full compliance with international human rights law and standards governing law enforcement operations. Issue clear and unambiguous orders to all Israeli security forces to ensure the effective protection of the Palestinian population against settler violence and hold to account members of the Israeli security forces who fail to comply with such orders. Ensure that appropriate measures are taken to enable the voluntary return of the Palestinian communities forcibly displaced by settler and State violence
- **Immediately repeal and end all discriminatory and otherwise unlawful impediments to Palestinians' freedom of movement** within the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- **Refrain from either closing or imposing restrictions on Palestinian facilities** within the Occupied Palestinian Territory and **end the restrictions imposed on Palestinians to access religious sites**.

Moreover, we count on your engagement for the EU and its member states to:

- Enact the **suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement in line with its Article 2**, in light of Israel's persistent human rights violations war crimes and crimes against humanity against the Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in Lebanon and beyond. This action will also meet the support of all Europeans who care for the rights and future of Palestinians and have massively displayed solidarity for them, including by signing the [European Citizens Initiative](#) to suspend the **EU-Israel Association Agreement**.
- **Reiterate their firm opposition to annexation of any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to any forcible displacement of the Palestinian people.** Reaffirm the collective commitment reflected in the New York Declaration to take concrete measures, in accordance with international law, and in line with the relevant UN resolutions and the 19 July 2024 Advisory Opinion of the ICJ, to help realize the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to counter policies and threats of forcible displacement and annexation throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Comply with obligations under international law to **neither recognize as legal nor aid or assist the maintenance of the situation arising from the unlawful presence of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.**
- **Cease the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to Israel** linked to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Issue a **public warning of economic sanctions to potential E1 Settlement Project participants**, and more broadly **reiterate their firm opposition to annexation of any part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to any forcible displacement of the Palestinian people.**
- Look into **adopting an EU-wide ban on trade with Israeli settlements and/or national bans**, following the example of Spain's legislation and of similar bills that have been initiated in Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands and Slovenia.
- Enhance the **protection of Palestinian human rights defenders (HRDs), activists and journalists** and **support and amplify the voice of Palestinian civil**

society and HRDs, by raising individual cases with Israeli authorities, calling for their release, monitoring their trials and providing assistance, including by providing emergency visas and relocation, in line with the [EU Guidelines on HRDs](#).

- **Support international justice**, by urging all EU Member States to comply with their obligations under the Rome Statute, to enforce all arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to reaffirm their political and financial support for the ICC and the ICJ; by calling on the European Commission to **activate the blocking statute to protect European operators from the effects of US sanctions** against those cooperating with the International Criminal Court (ICC); and by urging the EU and its Member States to take any other diplomatic and practical steps necessary to defend the ICC and those cooperating with the Court.