

Civil society organizations strongly protest and condemn Israel's third demolition of the Sheikh Jarrah protest tent

Israeli armed forces encircled the Sheikh Jarrah (Um Kamel's) protest tent yesterday Tuesday 16. December 2008 and demolished Um Kamel's protest tent. This is the third time the Israeli municipality and police destroy the tent citing different reasons each time; lack of permit from the municipality to erect the tent or the removal of objects that disrupt to natural beauty of the area.

The Israeli forces arrived at 07:45 Tuesday morning, arrested four activists, prevented anybody from approaching the area and with bulldozer demolished the tent and destroyed its contents. The bulldozers were then used to destroy the land and the water network. The electricity supply to the tent was also disconnected.

Israel is determined to destroy the tent and with it our cry for freedom and independence. Israel is clearly violating our right to protest its policies of colonization and oppression that constitute blatant violations of International law and the 4th Geneva Convention. But in return we are also determined to continue with our protest until we obtain our lawful rights. And therefore the tent has been re-erected.

We ask the international community to provide protection to the Palestinian people from Israel's crimes and atrocities as obligated under International law and call on all to come to the tent in solidarity with the Palestinian people and to demand an end to Israel's occupation.

Like the olive tree we are rooted in our homes and land!

Jerusalem, 17. December 2008