



The Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood committee formed to collectively work against the settlers' schemes and protect their rights to their homes:

- 1- Considers the Israeli legal system a mere tool manipulated and used by the Israeli political system. The Israeli judiciary systems proved yet again to be void of basic legal credibility. This system operates with one objective in mind and that is to ensure and serve Jewish interests overriding all other rights in the country.
- 2- Strongly condemns the Israeli military forces forceful eviction of Al Kurd family from their home and considers it unjust and unlawful.
- 3- Warns that the eviction of Al Kurd family could set a dangerous precedent that will pave the way for further evictions.
- 4- Reiterates the fact that the planned eviction of the twenty eight families is part of a plan to implant a new Jewish settlement in the area.
- 5- Calls on the parties involved in the housing project (the Jordanian Government and UNRWA) to rise up to their historical obligations to protect the residents and to exert pressure on Israel to stop the eviction of the families.
- 6- Urges the international community, human rights organizations, the UN, the EU, the Quartet and Peace Camp in

Israel to put pressure on Israel to stop it from pursuing its plan of eviction and colonization.

7- Calls on the EU governments and the international community to adopt the EU parliament's resolution of 20th November 2008 that calls for the immediate return of Al Kurd family to their home and the cessation of Israel's colonization of the occupied Palestinian territories.

We, the Sheikh Jarrah Neighborhood Committee emphasize and reiterate our right to stay in our homes in Jerusalem, our Palestinian capital, and declare our rejection and opposition to Israel's colonization policies. We call on our people and our political factions to rise and support us in our struggle against this injustice. We are aware that this is part of the wider scheme to settle in East Jerusalem and to enhance the small settlements scattered all over Jerusalem especially in and around the Old City, Sillwan, Wadi Al Joz, the Mount of Olives, Ras Alamoud thus encircling Jerusalem. The ultimate goal is to evict the Palestinians from Jerusalem and annex their land in yet another wave of ethnic cleansing.

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- The Israeli Supreme Court on 16.07.2008 issued an order to evict Al Kurd Family; the father Mohammad Al Kurd who is partially paralyzed and suffers from diabetes and heart problems, the mother Fawzieh Al Kurd and their five children, from their home in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of Jerusalem where they lived since 1956. The court's ruling is the result of a long legal battle Al Kurd family fought together with another 27 Palestinian families against groups of Jewish Settler organizations who falsely claim property of the land.
 - Al Kurd's house is part of a housing project the Jordanian government built with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) to house 28 Palestinian refugee families who fled their homes in 1948. It was agreed then that ownership of the houses will be transferred to the families within three years in return for the food assistance the families received from UNRWA.
 - Shortly after the six days war in 1967 two groups of Jewish settlers known as the Oriental Jews Associations and the Knesseth Yisrael Association were successful in falsely claiming property of the land. In 1972 they managed to register the land – 28 dunums – in their name with the Israeli Land registrar.
 - In 1982 the two associations filed suits against the families claiming their property rights. The families appointed a lawyer by the name of Tosya Cohen to defend their case. The lawyer without prior knowledge of the families reached an agreement with the settlers associations where he recognized the settlers' ownership of the land in return for granting the families the status of protected residents according to the law.
 - The families refused to accept this agreement, relieved Tosya Cohen from representing them and refused to pay the rent.
 - As the families refused to pay the rent to the settlers' organizations, eviction orders were issued to a number of families including Al Kurd family.
 - Upon further investigations and legal proceedings that continued until 2006, it became clear that the settlers' associations did not own the land. The families' present lawyer Mr. Houssni Abu Hussein petitioned the land registration department to revoke the settlers' registration of the land of 1972 and to issue an order to state the rightful owner of the land.
 - The land registration department agreed on November 2006 to the first demand and revoked the ownership of the settlers' associations but refused to issue an order to conduct a rezoning of the area necessary to declare the rightful ownership of the land. The refusal was based on political reasons.
 - The Israeli courts however did not admit the new developments in the case and most importantly the decisions made by the land registry department. The families had no other choice but to appeal to the Israeli Supreme Court in order to issue an order compelling the land registry department to conduct the rezoning of the area and to annul all documents related to the settlers' rights to the land.
 - It is worth noting that the Israeli courts decision to evict Al Kurd family was based only on the agreement made by the settlers and Tosya Cohen in 1982. The Israeli courts deliberately neglected all new evidence brought forward that should automatically discredit that agreement.
 - The two settlers' associations sold their claim to property to a settlers' investment company by the name of Nahlat Shemoun. In February 2008, the company submitted a project to the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem in which the company proposes to demolish the 28 homes and build 200 settlement units to house new Jewish immigrants. The project includes a commercial centre.
 - At present the families are awaiting the Supreme Court's decision to freeze the eviction orders and to oblige the land registry to rezone the area.
 - In 2001 a group of settlers broke into a part of Al Kurd's family house. On 25.02.2007 the Israeli Supreme Court issued an order to evict the settlers. The eviction order has not been implemented until the present day.
 - On 29.July 2008, the Israeli police arrested Maher Hanoun for refusing to comply with the court's eviction order. He served a prison sentence of three months and was released on —.
 - On 6th November 2008, the Al Sabbagh family received evacuation orders from the civil court. The Al Sabbagh family consists of about 50 members.
 - On 9th November 2008 at four o'clock in the morning, the Israeli military forces forcefully evicted the Al Kurd family from their home.
 - On 10th November a tent in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood was erected to protest the eviction of the AL-Kurd family from their home and Israel's ethnic cleansing policies in the occupied Palestinian territories.
 - On 11, 12, 13th November 2008 Um Kamel Al Kurd received three orders from the Israeli municipality to remove the tent and pay fines.
 - On 19th November 2008 the Israeli armed forces encircled the area and demolished the tent. The tent was re-erected on the same day.
 - On 20th November 2008 the Israeli armed forces demolished the tent for the second time. The tent was re-erected on the same day for the second time.
 - On 22nd November 2008 Mr. Mohammad Al Kurd (Abu Kamel) died due to a massive heart attack he suffered two weeks after he was forcefully evicted from his home.
 - On 30th January 2009 Al Ghawi and Al Hanoun Family received an evacuation order.
 - On 23 th March 2009 the District Court discussed 13 new documents obtained recently from the Turkish Archives. These documents prove that the owner of the land is Mr. Suleiman Daoud Hejazy. The District court rejected the appeal based on the new evidence and so did the Supreme court on the 5th of April 2009.
 - On 3 rd May 2009 the 'Hossa Laphoal' the public institute that executes court orders renewed the evacuation order valid for 21 days.
 - On the 4th of May 2009, the Israeli District court decided to postpone for 10 days the court hearing against the Al Ghawi and Al Hanoun families. The ten days were granted to the families to evacuate their homes voluntarily.
- On 17th May 2009, the district court decided to fine each family the amount of 50 thousand Dollars and a 50 thousand NIS, in case the families fail to evacuate by 19/7/2009, the date of upcoming court hearing.
- On the 4th June 2009 the Al Sabbagh family will attend their first court hearing.