



**CAIRO INSTITUTE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES**
Institut du Caire pour les études des droits de l'homme
مركز القاهرة لدراسات حقوق الإنسان

Human Rights Council: 32nd Session
Item 7: General Debate
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
June 27, 2016

Thank you Mr. President,

The Cairo Institute delivers this statement on behalf of Al-Haq, Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, the Community Action Center – Al Quds University, Society of St. Yves – Catholic Center for Human Rights, Jerusalem Center for Legal Aid and Human Rights, Civic Coalition for Jerusalem, and the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies.

Alarming intensifications in policies aiming at forcibly transferring Palestinians from Jerusalem are being implemented. Israel is using residency revocation as a punitive measure against Palestinians struggling for self-determination and basic rights. The Israeli government used the recent outbreak of violence to intensify its punitive policies against Jerusalemites.

In a dangerous precedent starting from 2006, the Israeli Minister of Interior has punitively revoked the residencies of at least 13 Palestinians on the basis of “breach of allegiance” to the state. Requiring from Palestinians to have loyalty towards the occupying power is a blatant violation of International Humanitarian Law which prohibits the imposition of swearing allegiance to the hostile power. If this measure is validated by Israeli courts, it will open the door to the displacement of thousands of Palestinians.

Upon the annexation of East Jerusalem, Palestinians were accorded a residency status which treats them as immigrants in their own country, in violation to the right to nationality. The Israeli Minister of Interior has discretionary powers to revoke this residency status. Since 1967, more than 14,500 residencies were revoked. Revocation of residencies is the most direct tool used by Israel to forcibly transfer Palestinians.

Adding to the general policy of residency revocation based on the "center of life requirement", since 2006 Israel has used residency revocation as a punitive measure against Palestinians. Most recently, three youth suspected of throwing stones had their

residencies revoked. Under article 5 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, even persons under “definite suspicion of activity hostile to the security of the Occupying Power” retain their status as protected persons.

- We call upon the new Special Rapporteur to report on the escalation of violations in Occupied East Jerusalem, including collective punishment, and particularly punitive residency revocations and house demolitions.
- We call on third State Parties to condemn Israeli policies aiming at forcibly transferring Palestinians from Jerusalem, put pressure on Israel to end residency revocation practices immediately, and prosecute, before their own national courts, Israeli officials, responsible for planning and executing forcible transfer.

Thank you Mr. President