

## **Stop the Eviction of the Ghaith-Sub Laban Family from their Home in Jerusalem's Muslim Quarter**

*We, local Israeli and Palestinian human rights and civil society organizations, condemn the imminent forced eviction of the Ghaith-Sub Laban family from their house in the Old City of Jerusalem. We call upon the Israeli government and the international community to intervene to halt the family's impending eviction and protect their right to their home.*

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**Nora Ghaith (68) and her husband Mustafa Sub Laban (72) were recently served an eviction order by the Israeli Enforcement and Collection Authority, whereby they can be evicted by force any time between June 28 to July 13, 2023.** If the eviction is carried out, it will make way for an Israeli settler group to seize their home in the Muslim Quarter.

The Ghaith-Sub Laban family has been embroiled in over a 45-year legal battle against persistent attempts by the state and settler groups to displace them and takeover their home for Jewish settlement. The family rented the house in 1953 from Jordan and as such was afforded protected tenancy rights. The continuity of these rights is protected by both Israeli and international law. However, after more than 45 years of recurring lawsuits and harassment by the Israeli authorities and settler organizations, the Supreme Court recently ruled to terminate the family's protected tenancy status and evict them from their home.

The eviction lawsuits were filed based on discriminatory property policies and laws by which the state and settlers can "reclaim" assets allegedly owned by Jews in East Jerusalem prior to 1948. Yet, Palestinians are denied the same right to retrieve lost properties in what became Israel. Many of these families are Palestinian refugees who now stand to be displaced for a second or even third time by settlers who have no relation to the alleged previous Jewish owners or occupants of the properties.

**It must be underscored that the Ghaith-Sub Laban's case is neither individual nor isolated.** Settler groups together with the Israeli authorities and underpinned by the Israeli judicial system have employed similar methods to evict dozens of Palestinian families from the Old City, Silwan, Sheikh Jarrah and other neighborhoods of occupied East Jerusalem. In addition to the discriminatory property policies, Israel utilizes unequitable housing and urban planning policies and land registration processes aimed at forced displacement of the Palestinian population.

Uprooting Palestinians, whether through means of evictions, home demolitions or other discriminatory policies and practices employed by Israel to forcibly transfer Palestinians from East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank is a **flagrant violation of Israel's obligations under international law.**

**We, the undersigned, hold the Israeli government accountable for protecting the rights of all East Jerusalem residents to housing and shelter and to family and community life.** We call upon the Israeli government to immediately prevent the eviction of the Ghaith-Sub Laban family from its home and to cease all processes of displacement in East Jerusalem. We also hold the Israeli government accountable for their health and wellbeing. If this grave injustice and forced displacement proceeds forward, **the family fears for the wellbeing of the elderly couple who are in poor health and in a fragile physical and psychological state.**

**We likewise appeal to members of the international community and the United Nations to urgently intervene to stop the forced displacement of the Ghaith-Sub Laban family and the seizure of their home.** We remind you that East Jerusalem, including the Old City, is part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The forcible transfer of civilians and the destruction and appropriation of civilian objects constitute a war crime. We urge the international community to fulfill its responsibilities in ending forced evictions, displacement, and other discriminatory policies against Palestinian families in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank.

Signed,

Association for Civil Rights  
in Israel (ACRI)

Adalah

B'Tselem

BIMKOM

Breaking the Silence

Breaking Walls

Center for Jewish  
Nonviolence (CJNV)

Combatants for Peace

Emek Shaveh

Forum Diur Tzibury

Free Jerusalem

Friends of Jahalin

Gisha

Ir Amim

Itach Ma'aki

Looking the Occupation in  
the Eye

Machsom Watch

Mesarvot

Mothers Against Violence

Parents Against Child  
Detention (PACD)

Peace Now

Physicians for Human  
Rights (PHRI)

Rabbis for Human Rights

Smol Emuni/Religious Left

Standing Together

Windows - Channels for  
Communication

Yesh Din

Yesh Gvul

Your Neighbor As Yourself

Zazim - Community Action

Zochrot