

## National Lobby of Parliament for Palestine; 27 November 2013

### MPs' briefing on Bedouin Palestinians and the Praver Plan

- In June 2013, the Israeli Knesset – by a small margin – voted to approve the discriminatory Praver-Begin Bill, for the mass expulsion of the Arab Bedouin community in the Negev desert (the Naqab) in the south of Israel.
- If fully implemented, the [Praver-Begin Plan](#) will result in:
  - the destruction of 35 "unrecognized" Palestinian Bedouin villages
  - the forced displacement of up to 70,000 Palestinian Bedouin citizens of Israel
  - and the dispossession of their historical lands in the Negev
- Despite the Palestinian Bedouin community's complete rejection of the plan and strong disapproval from the [international community](#) and human rights groups, the Praver Plan Bill now looks set to pass its remaining stages, and the plans are already impacting on the community.
- Palestinian Bedouin communities have lived in the Negev since the 7<sup>th</sup> century, but their land claims are being ignored
- Many of the villages Israel refuses to 'recognise' existed before the state of Israel; other were forcibly displaced and resettled in other areas
- Although Bedouin are 30% of the population of the Naqab, they live now only on 2% of the land

Palestinians have been subject to forced displacement since Israel was established as a state in 1948. The methods used by Israeli authorities are consistent with the official United Nations definition of ethnic cleansing, namely "rendering an area ethnically homogeneous by using force or intimidation to remove from a given area persons of another ethnic or religious group." Palestinians, including Bedouin, have already been displaced on a large scale from Jerusalem and the West Bank.

**As your constituent, I would welcome your support in calling on the UK Government to make public, urgent and sustained representations to Israel to cancel the Praver Plan, to formally recognize the "unrecognised villages" and the land claims of the indigenous Palestinian Bedouin community and to end home demolitions and forced evictions**

**I would also welcome your support in addressing this important issue by:**

- To table a question for DfID Question time by 12.30 Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> for answer on 11.30 Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December:
  - What contributions she will make towards the humanitarian needs of Bedouins being forcibly removed from the Negev?
- writing to the Foreign Secretary to ask what action the UK Government has taken
- Signing the Early day motion 306, Ethnic Cleansing of Bedouin People in Israel
- visiting the Palestinian Bedouin to see the situation first-hand and to help them defend their rights