THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE for Palestinian Human Rights

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BULLETIN

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Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

An ad hoc Coordinating Committee of International Non-Governmental Organizations (CCINGO) in Jerusalem was formed to share concerns about the situation of the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Individuals from over two dozen humanitarian organizations, from 7 countries, write periodic CCINGO press statements, such as that of May 24 which is excerpted here. Call 202-342-8347 to hear the full statement, with the names and telephone numbers of the authors.

"The combination of an Israeli-sponsored land grab and stagnated local economy seriously threatens the goal of Palestian self-reliance...caravans and prefabricated homes are being added to existing settlements on a daily basis...tens of thousands of Palestinian families are currently destitute...a direct result of the prolonged war-time curfew and post-war government rrestrictions on Palestinian workers...For years, the world community has been unanimous in condemning Israeli settlements...Baker made it clear that Israeli settlements represent the biggest obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

Land Confiscation and Settlements "Since 1967, Israeli authorities have confiscated 65% of the land in the West Bank and have taken control of approximately 50% of the Gaza Strip...Despite Baker's recent diplomatic initiatives, land confiscations have continued...In order to avert international criticism, most current activity involves the expansion of existing settlements...(but) four new settlements have been built since early March... Israeli authorities routinely confiscate land in order to build roads...In Bethlehem, 190 dunums of land belonging to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate is currently being expropriated...for (a) settlement road...Current Israeli settlement policies, including land use restrictions and road construction, are ghettoising the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli authorities are actively and deliberately undermining the future growth and development of Palestinian society.

East Jerusalem "Illegally annexed by Israel in 1967, East Jerusalem has been the focus of more settlement activity than the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Over 137,000 Israelis currently live in eight settlement blocs ringing Pales-tinian East Jerusalem. According to Israeli sources, 36,000 new housing units will be built in East Jerusalem during the next ten years. In contrast, Palestinians will be allowed to construct only 9,000 units during the same period...Land use policies for East Jerusalem are clearly discriminatory; while Israelis are allowed to maximize development potential, Palestinian growth is severely restricted...According to Israeli sources, plans are presently being discussed which if implemented, could (lead) to the extension of Jerusalem's municipal borders...the plans include the creation of six new administrative districts potentially incorporating a number of Palestinian villages...

Economic Hardship "The number of destitute West Bank families has doubled in recent weeks...in West Bank villages dependent upon wages earned inside Israel...In Qifeen, near Nablus, out of the 2,500 villagers formerly working inside Israel, only 150 are currently employed there...Malnutrition levels in the occupied territories in the occupied territories are 30% higher than last year. UNRWA officials are warning that hunger and malnutrition could reappear in levels not seen since the 1950's. According to physicians, entire generations of Palestinian children risk developmental problems... Concerned about the continuing assault on the physical and social infrastructure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, CCINGO calls upon the international community to take actions to protect the land and livelihoods of the 1.7 million Palestinians forced to live under Israeli occupation."