

Brigadier General Fares Atila
Head of the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria
Office for the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories
Beit El Military Base
Beit El 9063100
Israël

January 2023

Dear Brigadier General Fares Atila,

I am concerned about the forced displacement of Jamila and Muhammad Abu Sabha, their family, and other Palestinian villagers in the south of the West Bank in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). Nine villages in the area, known as Masafer Yatta, are at imminent risk of demolitions and 1,150 inhabitants who have lived there for generations face forced displacement.

The settling of an occupying state's civilians in occupied territory and the forcible transfer of protected persons are serious violations of international humanitarian law and war crimes. These forcible transfers are carried out to maintain Israel's system of oppression and domination over Palestinians, and therefore also constitute the crime against humanity of apartheid.

I call on you to immediately halt all plans to demolish Palestinian homes and evict residents in Masafer Yatta, end Israeli settlement activity, and to stop forcible transfers of the Palestinian population in the occupied West Bank in general. Israel should also end other violations against Palestinians in the OPT, such as arbitrary restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement and residence in their communities, and on their rights to access livelihoods, healthcare services and education.

Yours sincerely,