

# TENT OF NATIONS

## URGENT APPEAL

June 17, 2024

With peaceful persistence since 1991, the Nassar family, continues to prevent confiscation of their farm, Tent of Nations, located in Area C of the Occupied West Bank, Palestine. As the situation continues to worsen, they need your urgent assistance.

With all eyes focused on Gaza, more Palestinian agricultural land in the West Bank is being taken. The Nassar family has not escaped these circumstances, and the situation is dire. Detailed below are some of the major actions taken by settlers and the military against the Nassars over the past 5 months, the actions the family has taken in response, and the delays they have faced from the courts and the military as they attempt to prevent the confiscation of their land.

### Roads constructed into and through the Nassar's property

- March 13, 2024: Israelis built a road which cuts off some 50 dunams of their property and if extended will make even more land inaccessible
- March 21, 2024: Construction of a second road began that, if continued, will cut off another segment of the family's land
- April 15, 2024: The Israeli military imposes a closed military zone which effectively cuts in half the northern most parcel of the Nassars land and prevents them from working it.
- May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 . An Israeli settler began a 3<sup>rd</sup> road, that if continued will connect the first and second roads leaving the Nassars with a minimal portion of their 400 acres of land on the top of their hill.

### New Outpost Establishment?

- May 27<sup>th</sup> in what appears to be the establishment of a new outpost (illegal by Israeli and international law), Israeli settlers placed an RV on a neighbors land which directly abuts the Nassar's land at the point where Road 2 currently stops.
- May 31<sup>st</sup> onward -- Continual construction activity at this location with several large truckloads of rock/gravel being dumped at the site, and graded to develop the road/location - possibly for addition of more caravans?.
- Grave concern that they are preparing to continue road #2 into and through Plot 1 of the Nassar's property effectively enclosing the Tent of Nations "compound" on the hilltop and cutting it off from all of the rest of their land in Plots 1 and 2.

### Legal Actions by the Nassars

- April 18<sup>th</sup> - after having received no response from the Israeli military challenging the building of roads through the Nassar's property, the family's lawyer appealed to the Supreme Court ( which had ruled previously that their land was not to be touched during the re-registration process).
- April 21<sup>st</sup> - The Court issued an order indicating nothing further was to be done on the Nassar's land, and the Military was required to respond to this order by May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- May 16<sup>th</sup> - The military told the court that no work was being done on the Nassar's property, and they needed more time to investigate the question. The Court gave them until June 5<sup>th</sup> at which time they responded again that they had no knowledge of roads being built on the Nassar's land and requested an extension to June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- While the State delays, Israelis continue to enter and work on the Nassars land - as recently as May 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Restricted Access to the property

- In addition, to these extremely concerning developments, the Nassars, like other Palestinian farmers, face more restrictions on accessing their land and increased intimidation and harassment by Israeli soldiers and settlers while trying to farm. Almost daily, Israeli military/security or settlers try to prevent the Nassar family from working on their farm and have damaged the farm's fences when entering the property.
- Additional road blocks, and fencing prevent access to their property by family and visitors from Route 60. Requiring additional travel time via villages which themselves often have flying checkpoints, road blocks.

## **THE RE-REGISTRATION BATTLE**

The Nassar family has been engaged in a 33 year legal struggle to re-register their land (as required by Israeli law since their property is in Area C of the Occupied West Bank). The Civil Administration cancelled the latest hearing in December 2023. A new court hearing is scheduled for July 2, 2024. This hearing (if not again cancelled to delay the process) will be the 12th in a series of hearings that began only in 2021, many years after the Israeli Supreme Court ruled, in 2006, that the Nassar family be allowed to re-register their land. Significantly, at this hearing, a member of the Nassar family will be allowed to testify, and a land expert will provide testimony in support of the family's ownership of the land for over 100 years, demonstrated by the family's significant documentation.

The Nassar's ownership of their land is clear and well documented. The current situation and now the new road construction and outpost heighten the urgency for these delays to end and a just outcome for the family to be secured: that is, completion of the re-registration process recognizing the Nassar's ownership of all their land.

**Your Government's action is urgently needed to bring to an end this dangerous situation the Nassar family faces and to secure justice by preventing illegal confiscation of their land: thereby also ensuring respect for international law. Specifically, it is imperative that your Government take all possible steps to ensure that:**

- 1. The Nassar ownership of *all* their land as delimited in their Re-registration Case Nos. 3714/2 and 3715/2 be confirmed and the re-registration be completed immediately.**

After 34 years of legal struggle, continuing to subject the Nassar family to an unending number of hearings, which are regularly delayed, is unacceptable.

In addition to your Government communicating to senior Israeli authorities, the importance of this just outcome for the Nassars without further delays, **please ask them to support the Nassars by attending the scheduled July 2, 2024, hearing at the military compound at Beit El (north of Ramallah).**

- 2. The road construction and all other damage and unauthorized entry to the Nassar's private property stops.**
- 3. Hindering the Nassar's access to their land, as well as intimidation or harassment by Israeli military/security or settlers stop.**
- 4. The Nassars are protected and may safely farm their land. Until this threatening situation ends, the Nassar family remains in need of protection, please set up a schedule to visit the Nassars at Tent of Nations regularly—as often as possible. Your presence allows the Nassars to farm their land in safety and helps prevent hostile acts against the Nassars, as well as prevents damage and unauthorized entry of their property.**
- 5. Your Government remains abreast of the situation developing on the ground by visiting Tent of Nations frequently. Please have delegations visiting your Mission also come to Tent of Nations to see first-hand the facts on ground.**

Thank you for your consideration and for understanding the urgency for action now.

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