

TENT OF NATIONS

URGENT APPEAL

August 21, 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 land in the West Bank is being taken. The Nassar family has not escaped these circumstances. On March 13, 2024, Israelis suddenly started building a road on their private property. On March 21, 2024, construction of a second road began that, if continued, would encroach on the family's land. After having received no response from the Israeli Military Authorities regarding the road construction on the family's private property, the Nassar's lawyer appealed to the Supreme Court, which had previously ruled that their land is not to be touched while the Nassar's undergo its re-registration process. On April 21, 2024, the Supreme Court issued an order preventing the State from doing anything on the Nassar's land until further orders, and the State was given until May 16, 2024, to respond to this Court order. On April 27, 2024, Israeli settlers started construction on the Nassar's land of a third road. This road comes up from the valley to the hilltop and would ultimately connect with the first road under construction. On May 16, 2024, the State informed the Nassar's lawyer that no construction on the Nassar's land is to take place, and the State requested a delay until June 5, 2024, to check the circumstances on the Nassar's land. On May 27, 2024, in what appears to be establishment of a new outpost, Israeli settlers placed an RV directly abutting the Nassar's land. On June 27, 2024, the State responded to the Supreme Court that the construction of roads on the Nassar's land is not done by the State but by settlers and requested that this case should be handled at the civil court in Jerusalem. This was rejected by Nassar's Lawyer and on July 9, 2024, the Supreme Court refused to dismiss this case and scheduled a hearing on October 8, 2024. In the meantime, Israeli settlers continue to enter and work on the Nassar's land—as recently as August 15, 2024. Settlers are now building a structure on a portion of the Nassar's land, likely the beginning of another illegal outpost.

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.

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 Israeli military court Re-registration Committee has continually postponed or cancelled hearings. As a result, no decision has been made after 12 hearings (5 of which have been cancelled) over a 3-year period. After cancelling the hearing scheduled for July 2, 2024, a new hearing is scheduled **for September 11, 2024**. This hearing (if not again cancelled to delay the process) will be the 13th 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, new outpost, and the building of a new structure on the Nassar's land 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. **Listed below are priorities in need of urgent action to support the Nassar family.**

Your action is urgently needed to help end this dangerous situation the Nassar family faces and to secure justice by preventing illegal confiscation of their land and thereby also ensuring respect for international law. We are asking you to contact your Parliament members and your Government and request that they do the following:

1. **Pressure the Israeli military Authority to hold the September 11, 2024 hearing and come to decision that confirms the Nassar ownership of *all* their land as delimited in their Re-registration Case Nos. 3714/2 and 3715/2.**

After 33 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 support the Nassars by attending the scheduled September 11, 2024, hearing at the military compound at Beit El (north of Ramallah), and on October 8, 2024 at the Supreme Court in Jerusalem.**

2. **Any and all construction of roads or structures on the Nassar private property must stop, as well as all other damage and unauthorized entry to the Nassar's private property.**
3. **The Nassars have free access to the Nassar's farm from road 60.**
4. **Hindering the Nassar's access to their land, as well as intimidation or harassment by Israeli military/security or settlers, must stop.**
5. **It is imperative that the Nassars be protected and may safely farm their land.** Until this threatening situation ends, the Nassar family remains in need of protection, **please ask your Parliament members and Governments when they visit the Region to set up a schedule to visit the Nassars at Tent of Nations. 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.**
6. **Ensure that your Government remains abreast of the situation developing on the ground by asking their Missions in the country to visit Tent of Nations frequently. Please have delegations visiting your Missions also come to Tent of Nations to see first-hand the facts on the ground.**

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