

VOORBEELDBRIEF AAN PRESIDENT MAHMOUD ABBAS

Hieronder zie je een voorbeeldbrief aan president Abbas, waarin hij dringend wordt gevraagd zijn invloed aan te wenden om de veiligheid van de familie Nassar te waarborgen, en het voortbestaan van Tent of Nations. Je kunt deze brief overnemen en zelf een persoonlijke introductie toevoegen.

De brief kun je toesturen aan de Palestijnse ambassadeur in Nederland, mw Rawan Sulaiman, haar mailadres is rsulaiman@nl.mfae.gov.ps

Natuurlijk stellen wij het ook prijs om op de hoogte gehouden te worden van jullie inzet en betrokkenheid!

Dear President Mahmoud Abbas,

We would like to draw your immediate attention to the very worrisome situation at Tent of Nations in Bethlehem and ask you to use your influence to protect the Nassar family.

(you can add an introduction: what is your relationship with Tent of Nations, why do you believe this place and the Nassar family should be protected, why is Tent of Nations such an important place)

Background

The Palestinian Christian Nassar family and their Tent of Nation's Farm are located south west of Bethlehem, next to the village of Nahalin. They bought their land over 100 years ago, and they possess the ownership papers and the papers of the registration of the land during the time of the British Mandate in the early 1920's. Since 1991, when the Israeli Authorities declared the whole area "state land", the family has been in a legal struggle, up to today to prevent their land from confiscation. Besides this, the family has been confronted with violence and attacks from both Jewish settlers and the Israeli army throughout the years. Due to the Israeli control in Area C, the family doesn't have access to water and electricity. The family also received over 20 demolition orders and is therefore very limited in developing the farm. Despite the difficult circumstances, the family continues to defend their land out of the motto 'We refuse to be enemies'. International volunteers help maintain the farm and their presence has been protecting the Nassar family against provocations from the settlers.

Tensions and attacks from Nahalin

The Nassar family is part of the community of Nahalin, and their struggle to protect the land from Israeli confiscation is also protecting the land of other farmers from Nahalin. Tensions started in August 2020 when the Nassar family was confronted with some people from Nahalin claiming ownership to part of their land. The Nassar family appealed to the court, but all court cases have been delayed and the outcome is still hanging in the air. From the same time on, the Nassar family and their land have been attacked over 20 times from these individuals, cutting olive trees, vandalizing the property and attacking members of the family. Although all attacks were reported to the police and the governor, the attacks continue until this day, with the worst attack on Friday January 28, when a group of masked men beat up Daher and Daoud Nassar, leaving them with severe wound in their heads and body, ending up in hospital.

Urgent request for action

We are deeply concerned, since the safety and security of the Nassar family is at stake, as

the continuation of the family farm and the Tent of Nations project. In order to protect the family and the farm, we urgently ask you to use your influence since the following is needed:

- an immediate stop of all attacks and threats
- an investigation of the attacks and prosecution of the attackers
- a quick completion of the court cases in which the family from Nahalin claims part of the Nassar's land
- a full compensation of all the losses and damages by the attackers

I will keep supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle for justice and peace and I wish you courage, wisdom, and strength. Thank you so much, with warm regards,

(name & contact details / address)