Negev Coexistence Forum For Civil Equality
منتدى التعايش السلمي في النقب من اجل المساواه المدنية
פורום דו–קיום בנגב לשוויון אזרחי

15.9.2011

To:

Prof. Yaacov Ne'eman, Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice

Re: The Prawer Plan approved by the government contradicts the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee to implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

On September 11, 2011 the government approved the initiative, known as the Praver-Amidror plan, which contradicts the final report of the UN Human Rights Committee (HRC) of July 2010. The HRC is the body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in Israel. According to the plan, 30,000 Bedouin residents will be displaced from their villages and removed to townships and many villages will be destroyed. This proposal is counter to the HRC's Concluding Observations which states as follows:

> "[T]he Committee is concerned at allegations of forced evictions of the Bedouin population … and of inadequate consideration of traditional needs of the population in the State party's planning efforts for the development of the Negev, in particular the fact that agriculture is part of the livelihood and tradition of the Bedouin population. The Committee is further concerned at difficulties of access to health structures, education, water and electricity for the Bedouin population living in towns which the State party has not recognised (arts. 26 and 27).
>
> In its planning efforts in the Negev area, the State party should respect the Bedouin population's right to their ancestral land and their traditional livelihood based on agriculture. The State party should also guarantee the Bedouin population's access to health structures, education, water and electricity, irrespective of their whereabouts on the territory of the State party."

Paragraph 24 of the Concluding Observations can be found at: http://www.dukium.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/CCPR-Concluding-Observations.pdf

The Prawer-Amidror plan does not meet the international standard as set by the HRC more than one year ago.

We expect that you will draw the Concluding Observations of the HRC to the attention of the government and other concerned parties and act to prevent the implementation of this plan by the Israeli government.

In addition, paragraph 25 of the Concluding Observations sets out that the State of Israel ought to

publish its third periodic report from 2008, its replies to the list of issues and the Concluding Observations. Furthermore, the HRC requests that such docments be made accessible to the general public, as well as to the administrative, judicial and legislative authorities. These documents should be accessible to the civil society and to non-governmental organizations that are active in Israel. The documents should be translated into Hebrew as well as Arabic.

The official Ministry website presents these documents only in English. There are no Hebrew or Arabic translations as requested.

We would like your response to the following questions:

1. When will the Ministry translate these documents and make them accessible to the public?
2. When will the Ministry begin the process of implementing the HRC's Concluding Observations?
3. Does the Ministry have the appropriate apparatus for implementing these Concluding Observations?
4. Do you intend to instruct the relevant government ministries and authorities to study the implications of the Concluding Observations? If so, when?

As a human rights organization focusing on civic equality, it is important to us that the varied governmental ministries will realize and adhere to these Concluding Observations and act accordingly.

We would be pleased to meet with you and present to you the additional report that we have recently completed and forwarded to the HRC's follow-up committee on the implementation of the Concluding Observations. You can find this report at: http://www.dukium.org/eng/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/2011-08-30-NCF-follow-up-to-HRC-concluding-observations.pdf

Sincerely,

The Secretariat of the Negev Co-existence Forum for Civil Equality
Avner Ben-Amos, Khalil Alamour, Ya'acov Manor, Musa Abu-Ganem, Said A-Sana, Rudeina Abu-Fariha, Rahel Nafarstek

Copies:
UN Human Rights Committee
The Popular Committee for Recognition Now
The Steering Committee Bedouin Arabs in Israel
The Association for Civil Rights in Israel
Tarabut-Hithabrut
Adalah- the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel
Bimkom – Planners for Planning Rights
Recognition Forum organizations:
- The Forty Organization – for Recognition of the Unrecognized Arab Villages
- Gush-Shalom
- The Committee for the Assistance and Protection of Bedouin Rights in Israel
- Social TV
- The Alternative Information Center
- Yesh Gvul

Israeli Committee against House Demolitions
New Profile
Coalition of Women for Peace
Rabbis for Human Rights
Taayush - Arab-Jewish Partnership