



26.7.2021

Mr. Omer Bar Lev
Minister of Homeland Security

Dear Sir,

Subject: Stopping the police escort to house demolitions in the Negev

We would like to warmly congratulate you upon taking office as Minister of Homeland Security and wish you wholeheartedly success in your mission.

1. 2,568 structures of Bedouins in the Negev were demolished in 2020, hundreds of them homes which left thousands of Israeli citizens with no roof over their heads.
2. The demolitions cause harmful economic damage to families that 80% of their children live in poverty, according to the data of the National Insurance Institute. These demolitions contribute to emotional distress and severely punish even young children who have not sinned. These demolitions do not conform to international law.
3. Each demolition is escorted by police forces and special patrol units. The Yoav unit , with all its 200 policemen, is dedicated to this task , and any deviation requires approval of the commissioner.
4. The coalition agreements of the new government are aimed to the recognition and regularisation of the unrecognized Bedouin villages with its 100,000 citizens. The agreements attest to goodwill and a willingness to find solutions.
5. Therefore, we would ask you to order the cessation of police assistance for the demolition of structures until the regulation plan is adopted and solutions are found for those whose homes were demolished.
6. This move is necessary to build trust with the Bedouin community and prove that the current government indeed wants to make a difference. It's a one-time opportunity to fix a long lasting omission for the community, which many of its members live in deplorable conditions because the State has failed to provide planning provisions and instead operates punishment and criminalisation.
7. This move will help in building ties between the community and the police and strengthen the fight against crime, particularly shooting, murder and criminal possession of firearms.



منتدى التعايش السلمي في النقب من أجل المساواة المدنية
פורום דו קיום בנגב לשוויון אזרחי
Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality

8. This move will help in building trust towards a dialogue with each of the villages on fair planning solutions, and build a political dialogue on regulation on the national level.
9. As someone who visited with us a few years ago in the villages and knows firsthand what is happening, we would thank you if you'd initiate a change in the existing policy and order a stop of any aid to the demolition of homes.

Sincerely,

Haia Noach
Executive Director
Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality