

## **An Appeal from Beit Jala – Bethlehem Governorate**

**April 23, 2004**

We, the undersigned, heads of religious institutions, civil institutions, communities and citizens of Beit Jala city, convey to you our intense concern of the Israeli land confiscation activities in Beit Jala, which has recently intensified on Bethlehem district lands after receiving the Israeli Occupation Military order no. **04/32/T** on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April, 2004, that will result in the seizure of **344 dunums of land (86 acres)** from Beit Jala and Al Walaja residents upon which the Segregation Wall will be built to continue the construction of a ghetto composed of the built-up of sections of Bethlehem city and its surrounding urban neighborhoods which includes Beit Jala.

- The wall will slay all our fertile agricultural lands located at the northern, western parts of the city depriving the right of our citizens to use their lands and the city to expand.
- The Segregation Wall will severely affect us directly or indirectly and cause destruction to our private and public properties. The Wall will swallow the left open spaces and strangulate the built-up areas where we live.
- However, all Israeli activities that are recently taking place hinder the viability of Bethlehem district; block the way in front of Bethlehem's area future sustainable development.
- The Wall is a collective punishment and a human right violation, Israel through its construction opposes the peace objectives, the International laws and UN resolutions and the will of the International community to give peace and stability in the region.

Therefore, we ask the peace loving people of the World, Christian societies and the International community to interfere and stop these Israeli activities in Bethlehem and it's surroundings, and support a fair implementation of the Road Map in order to put an end to the bloodshed and political conflict and bring stability, justice and peace between both Palestinians and Israelis.

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