



## ***AL MUFAQARAH R-EXIST CAMPAIGN***

<http://almufaqarah.wordpress.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/AlMufaqarahRExist>

The PSCC is launching a campaign to support the community of al Mufaqara in its legitimate struggle to keep living in its land through the construction of 15 brick houses in order to emphasize the permanent character of their presence in the area and opposed Israeli policies of displacement. The action will take place EVERY SATURDAY.



## **Introduction :**

The **Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC)** was formed by prominent activists in the Popular Committees from all over the Occupied Territories and across the Palestinian political spectrum. Popular Committees present a unique form of community based organization and resistance in the tradition of the first Palestinian intifada. These diverse, non-partisan committees lead community resistance to Israeli occupation in various forms, such as marches, strikes, demonstrations, direct actions and legal campaigns, as well as supporting the campaign of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS).



The **Coordination Committee** was formed to enhance a productive communication between the **different Popular Committees**: from the villages in Ramallah area - Bil'in, Ni'ilin, Nabi Saleh -, Bethlehem- al Maasara, Al Walaja -, of the Jordan Valley and South Mount Hebron to Tulkarem, Nablus, Qalqilya, all suffering of various aspects of the occupation. The committee aims to provide a base for strategic thinking on a wider scale, while retaining the independence and uniqueness of each Popular Committee.

Rooted in a stern belief in the power of the popular struggle to overthrow the Israel's occupation, the Committees encourage and strengthen the grassroots Palestinian resistance and accommodate its needs. Hoping to echo the ANC's strategy of UN-governability, the Coordination Committee strives to encourage and to support the emergence of new Committees and initiatives, regardless of their political affiliation.

**The success of the popular struggle resistance also relies heavily on the support of the international community through BDS initiatives, financial aid, increased visibility and direct solidarity. The Coordination Committee works on developing international support networks and their direct ties to the struggle for liberty in Palestine.**

## Context :



**Over 60% of the West Bank is under Israeli occupation:** settlements and their subsidiary infrastructures such as settler bypass roads, the Apartheid Wall, checkpoints and military bases have led to the expropriation of thousands of dunums of Palestinian land, chocking the Palestinians in dire conditions. According to the international law established by the Geneva Convention, the authority practiced by the

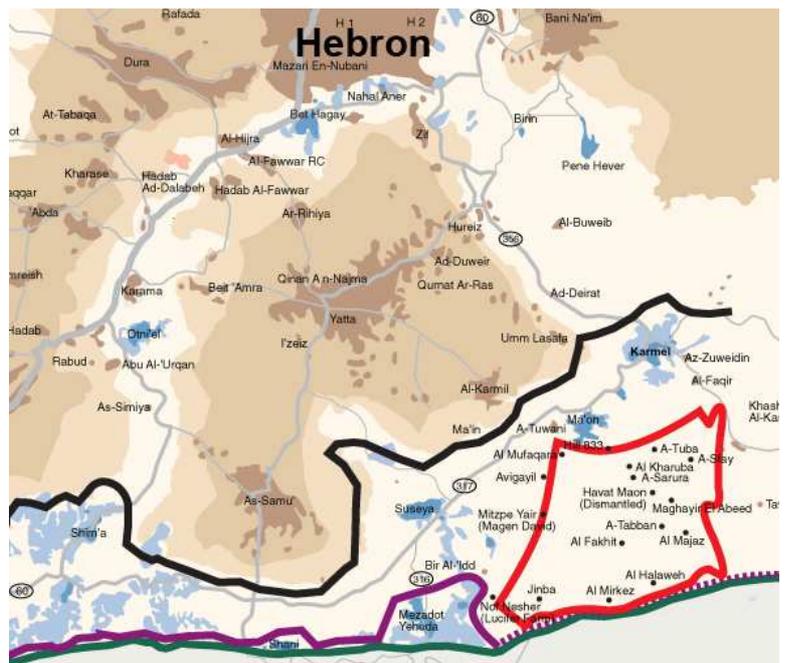
occupation does not consent it a domination over the land it occupies and certainly does not allow the occupier to annex any part of the land to its jurisdiction nor transfer parts of its population to the occupied territory.

**Al Mufaqrara is one of a dozen communities situated in South Hebron Hills,** in an area designated as a so called “Closed military area” (Area C) adjacent to the Green Line. Its residents, gathered in around 15 family units, are permanently living in caves and shacks, farming and grazing, as their ancestors did.

Surrounded by 4 settlements – Karmel and Ma’on at north; Suseya and Mezadot Yehuda on the west side –, the 7.500 acre firing zone was proclaimed during the ’70, but any enforcement action had been taken since the end of ’90.

On 5<sup>th</sup> October 1999, just a week after a first dismantlement of the already reconstituted illegal outpost of Havat Ma’on, the residents of all the communities in the closed area except al Mufaqrara received an evacuation order. Al- Mufaqrara inhabitants were warned only on the 15th of November, just 24 hours before Israeli soldiers arrived. The next day the Israeli army destroyed the tents, sealed the caves, dispersed the flocks and evacuated the residents to the other side of road 317. Some of them took refuge in tents in the village of al-Tuwani. The cave dwellers appealed to the High Court that six months later allowed them to go back since the decision on the area final status.

**Six years ago, Israeli authorities built an 80 cm wall along road 317, de facto cutting any connection between the village of al- Tuwani, the people living in the closed area and the vital city of Yatta.** A petition was filed in the High Court of justice, which ruled the dismantlement of the wall.



**The forced displacement of people and the construction of the wall testify Israeli attempts to empty and isolate the region from the rest of the area in order to annex it.** Residents are also exposed to

settlers' attacks, which began systematic after the foundation of Havat Ma'on.



Nowadays, the community of al Mufaqrara is still facing several problems. **People live in caves and tents, without electricity and running water, in a constant situation of uncertainty.** Authorizations to build are systematically denied and most of the structures of the villages have pendent demolition orders, despite the existence of official documents proving the inhabitants property of the land.

**On 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011, Israeli army demolished the mosque, two houses, a cattle shed, the generator building and arrested two girls.** The next day men from all the area came to pray in the village and started working at the rebuilding of the mosque, showing great solidarity and their strong willing to preserve their land. After this episode ACTED (Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development) with funds being available from the Humanitarian Relief Fund (HRF), managed by UN OCHA, and delivered three mobile houses, which don't constitute a housing solution in keeping with the traditions of the inhabitants. Also, all these houses have recently received a stop-working order expiring on the 29th of May.

While surrounding illegal settlements and outposts are supplied with infrastructures, the community attempt to connect to the Palestinian power grid has been prevented by the Israeli authority. On the 4th of November 2011, the Israeli army demolished six electrical pylons, two of which were located inside the village.

**Access to water is also crucial.** Water is extremely expensive in this remote area and Palestinians are forced to buy it from Yatta, the only town in the South Hebron Hills. The high price is mainly due to transportation cost, since the distance between al Mufaqrarah and Yatta is 40 km.

## **“Al MufaqarahR-Exist” Campaign:**

The PSCC launched a campaign that began on May 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 which supports the community of al Mufaqara in their legitimate struggle to keep living on their land. The construction of 15 brick houses will emphasize the permanent character of their presence in the area which opposes Israeli policies of displacement. Two of these 15 houses have already been built, while the third one is under construction.

The PSCC will **also provide legal support** and long term monitoring of the situation. The purpose is to repeat the successful story of al-Tuwani, where a village of 300 residents faced similar living conditions without water and electricity. .

Defying the pending demolition orders and the prohibition to build are ways to demonstrate the legitimate right of the South Hebron Hills residents to remain steadfast on their land.

This project is a grassroots initiative from the Local Community. The PSCC calls for Palestinian, Israeli and international activists to support the campaign through:

- **Legal Strategies**
- **Non-violent action**
- **Solidarity**
- **Communications (Schools, social media etc) / Fundraising events**

It is essential that we use as many different channels as possible to generate support for this campaign. Contribution through these methods will enable us to build 12 homes for the 12 families in Al-Mufaqarah.

For further information and to get involved please contact us via email: [al.mufaqarah@gmail.com](mailto:al.mufaqarah@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook for updates: [Facebook.com/AlmufaqarahRExist](https://www.facebook.com/AlmufaqarahRExist)

## **Budget:**

Being a grassroots initiative, the project is not financially assisted by international donors through international organizations or NGO's. It is supported by direct donations coming from associations and individual supporters.

Since administrative duties are carried out by unpaid volunteers, the money raised will have no administrative costs. All the resources collected will fund building materials and their transportation costs.

This form of financing excludes any form of intermediary, so money is directly administered by the PSCC and the community of al Mufaqrara. The direct flow of money allows us to maximize the resources we acquire.

Contributing financially to this project is a way to support the legitimate struggle of Palestinians against Israeli policies of displacement that are systematically applied in Area C.

The cost of each house will be approximately 1125 euros, which will result in the total cost of 13500 euros for all 12 homes.

**If individual companies and businesses are able and willing to make material donations it would be extremely appreciated.**

Here below you can find the approximate costs for the building of each house:

<b>Material</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Iron	1500 NIS
Fuel	300 NIS
Sand	1300 NIS
Gravel	800 NIS
Cement	1500 NIS
Bricks	900 NIS
<b>Tot. per house</b>	<b>6300 Nis = 1312,5€</b>
<b>Tot. 12 houses</b>	<b>€ 15750</b>

**If you wish to make a donation directly from your bank account here are the details you need:**

Beneficiary:	Popular Struggle Coordination Committee
Status:	Nonprofit association
Registration number:	RA-22734-B
Bank	Bank of Palestine PLC
Branch:	Ramallah
Bank no:	89
Account name:	Popular Coordination Committee
Account number:	1205998
Swift code:	PALSPS22
Branch No:	458

**If you prefer to pay online, you can follow the link below:**

<https://www.popularstruggle.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=3>

## **Contacts:**

### **Popular Struggle Coordination Committee**

Governmental Hospital Street – Qaddura refugee camp

Ramallah – Palestine

00 972/ (0)2-298 57 02

[www.popularstruggle.org](http://www.popularstruggle.org)

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/254782982176>

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