



August 17, 2009

State of Israel

Prime Minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu
Ambassador to Japan Mr. Nissim Ben-Shitrit

YWCA of Japan

**We strongly protest the forced evictions of Palestinians in East Jerusalem
by the government of Israel and call to stop them immediately.**

YWCA of Japan makes a strong protest against that in the early morning of Sunday August 2, 2009 Israeli police forcibly evicted eight Palestinian families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah district neighborhood of occupied East Jerusalem. Those evicted families from their homes were forced to live on the streets, and Jewish settlers began to live in Palestinians' houses instead. Israel, as the occupying power in East Jerusalem, is prohibited under international humanitarian law (*) from destroying private property. Neither International Law nor International communities approve Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem. Nevertheless Israeli Government has oppressed Palestinian human rights in East Jerusalem, confiscated their property and made it difficult for them to keep living there. Its aim is to enhance Jewish communities on a large scale. Sheikh Jarrah district neighborhood is one of its targets. Israel should withdraw from the occupied areas and immediately stop forced eviction and house demolition of Palestinians.

(*Such destruction is considered legal only in necessary case for security in military operations, but this is not the case.)

Before 1948, there was a Jewish community in the Sheikh Jarrah district. However, because of the conflict with Arabians after 1920, the Jews moved to another places by 1948. Since then, the site has been in charge of Jordan Government's Administration Department of the hostile country's estates. In 1956, by mutual consent between Jordan Government and UNRWA, 28 Palestinian refugee families were provided with the shelters and have lived there up to the present. Now it is said that in Jerusalem City Assembly, a town planning is under consideration to construct a settlement *Shimon Ha Tzadik* with 200 houses for Jews after banishing 500 Palestinian residents in the Sheikh Jarrah district neighborhood. We call on the Government of Israel to stop settlement project and housing development for Jews.



YWCA of Palestine, as well as YWCA of Japan, is networking with 125 national YWCAs in the world and an affiliated member of the World YWCA, a consultative NGO body with the UN Economic and Social Council and that of Human Rights. The World YWCA Council has adopted several resolutions on the call for justice and peace in the Middle East. YWCA of Palestine in Sheikh Jarrah district provides vocational and leadership training for women and girls in the refugee camp to help them recover their Palestinian identities and to be self-supporting under the circumstances where their human rights and dignities have been violated by Israeli founding and occupation. YWCA of Japan pays respects with solidarity for such activities provided by YWCA of Palestine in Sheikh Jarrah district.

We, YWCA of Japan strongly protest that Israel has been violating Palestinians' human rights and call on the followings

1. Call on the Government of Israel to stop evictions from and demolitions of Palestinian homes under occupation, especially in Sheikh Jarrah district in East Jerusalem
2. Call to end occupation of Palestine, to stop this humanitarian disaster in the region.
Call to respect and protect Palestinians' dignities and human rights.