



The Global Initiative

for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

**Parallel Report submitted by the
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR)
to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Pre-Sessional Working Group
on the occasion of the consideration of the
Fourth Periodic Report of Israel**

**Israel's continued violations of the International Covenant on
Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with regard to house
demolitions, forced evictions, access to agricultural land and
access to water and sanitation in occupied Palestine and Israel**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR) is an international non-governmental human rights organization which seeks to advance the realization of economic, social and cultural rights throughout the world, tackling the endemic problem of global poverty through a human rights lens. The vision of the GI-ESCR is of a world where economic, social and cultural rights are fully respected, protected and fulfilled and on equal footing with civil and political rights, so that all people are able to live in dignity.

2. The mission of the GI-ESCR is to strengthen the international human rights framework through creative standard setting, so that all people, and in particular marginalized groups, are able to fully enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights, and are able to do so without discrimination and on the basis of equality; provide innovative tools to policy makers, development actors and others on the practical implementation and realization of economic, social and cultural rights through international regional and national mechanisms and seek remedies for violations of these rights, with a focus on creating beneficial jurisprudence aimed at transformative change; engage networks of human rights, women's rights, environmental and development organizations and agencies to advance the sustainable enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights at both national and international levels; and work with advocates, social movements and grassroots communities at national and local levels to more effectively claim and enforce economic, social and cultural rights, including by engaging international mechanisms for local impact.

3. The GI-ESCR provides the following Parallel Report to highlight and to ensure that previous Concluding Observations and recommendations are securitized during the present periodic review.

2. FORCED EVICTIONS AND HOUSE DEMOLITIONS

4. In its Concluding Observations of 2011, the Committee urged that the State Party stop forthwith home demolitions as reprisals and recommended the review and reform of its housing policy and the issuance of construction permits in East Jerusalem, in order to prevent demolitions and forced evictions.

What steps has the State Party taken to ensure the prohibition of forced eviction within both Israel and the occupied Palestine?

5. The Committee furthermore urged the State party to intensify efforts to prevent attacks by settlers against Palestinians and Palestinian property in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and investigate and prosecute criminal acts committed by settlers.

What steps has the State Party taken to protect Palestinians from attacks by settlers and what steps has the State Party taken to ensure that such attacks are addressed through the criminal justice system?

6. The Committee also expressed its concern that the Plan for the Regularization of Bedouin Housing and for the Economic Development of the Bedouin Population in the Negev may result in forced eviction and recommended that the Plan not result in the forceful eviction of Bedouins and that any eviction should be based on free, prior and informed consent and that those relocated are offered adequate levels of compensation, in line with the Committee's general comment No.7. It further recommended that the State Party officially regulate the unrecognized villages, cease the demolition of buildings in those villages, and ensure the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing.

What steps has the State Party taken to implement these 2011 recommendations?

3. ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS

7. In its Concluding Observations of 2011, the Committee urged that the State Party to ensure that Palestinians enjoy unimpeded access to their agricultural lands in all their territories.

What steps has the State Party taken to ensure unimpeded access to agricultural lands for all Palestinians?

4. WATER AND SANITATION

8. In its 2011 Concluding Observations, the Committee urged the State Party to take measures to ensure the availability of sufficient and safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for Palestinians living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including through the facilitation of the entry of necessary materials to rebuild the water and sanitation systems in Gaza and urged the State Party to take urgent steps to facilitate the restoration of the water infrastructure of the West Bank including in the Jordan Valley, affected by the destruction of the local civilians' wells, roof water tanks, and other water and irrigation facilities under military and settler operations since 1967.

What steps has the State Party taken to ensure respect for existing water and sanitation infrastructure and to increase access to water and sanitation to the Palestinian populations living under occupation?

Contact Information:

**Bret Thiele
Co-Executive Director
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
Bret@globalinitiative-escr.org**