

United Nations Criticizes Israel Over Demolition of Palestinian Houses



United Nations, December 5 (RHC)-- The United Nations has censured the Israeli regime for demolishing Palestinian houses in the occupied West Bank, calling it a violation of the most basic human rights. The demolition of homes as a "punitive" measure against Palestinians runs counter to international laws and must stop, UN Humanitarian Coordinator James W. Rawley told a press conference on Thursday.

The Israeli regime routinely demolishes the houses of those Palestinians whom it accuses of being involved in attacks against Israelis. Rawley said: "Punitive demolitions are a form of collective penalty that punishes people for acts they did not commit. They render innocent people homeless. The impact on children, women and the elderly is particularly devastating."

"Punitive demolitions must stop. They contravene international law and risk undermining the already fragile situation. Human rights violations are not only a symptom of the continued conflict here; they contribute to it."

In November, the Israeli regime ordered the destruction of the houses of two Palestinians who Tel Aviv claimed had carried out attacks against Israelis in East Jerusalem. According to reports, 34 Palestinians,

including 16 children, have lost their homes as a result of Israeli demolitions from June to November this year.

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